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Celebrity Pg 37

Imitation is highest form of flattery

United States
Presidential Inauguration

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Take Five pg 38

See Metro's recipe of day

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CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle Obama, walk the inaugural parade route yesterday in Washington.

Spirit of change

History's chain broke awkwardly yesterday, a few minutes later than advertised, a few crucial words shy of correct.

When Barack Hussein Obama and Chief Supreme Court Justice John Roberts finally got the 35 words to the oath of office almost right — the chief justice muddled the oath, while Obama waited and smiled — the date with destiny was complete.

Every colour. Every country, too, represented in the frozen masses assembled at the National Mall outside the west front of the U.S. Capitol. And one billion more, on television and online, the world over.

It was arguably the most joyous gathering in U.S. history, three kilometres of humanity, a mesmerizing flurry of flags and smiles.

A race card turned, a legacy trumped — and America made sense again. Different sense. Better sense.

A hush fell. More words — 17 minutes of words. And the Poet-in-Chief hit every mark.

Too many marks, surely. It was a speech that was intended as all things to all people — the unfurling once again of that widest possible umbrella that brought him to power. A good speech, but not Obama's greatest. One that echoed — yet somehow did not quite match — the landmark addresses of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and George Washington.

Those who came wanting to hear Obama claim Martin Luther King Jr.'s promised land left with the mountaintop unmentioned. Perhaps what you can see speaks for itself.

But as the minutes ticked by, Obama found momentum in a surfeit of transformative declarations — pledges of change all around.

"The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation," said Obama.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

United States
Presidential Inauguration

Inauguration Quotes

A collection of quotes on Barack Obama's inauguration:

"We also send our warmest wishes to our American neighbours as they celebrate this historic day with their friends around the world ... The United States remains Canada's most important ally, closest friend and largest trading partner and I look forward to working with President Obama and his administration as we build on this special relationship."

— PM STEPHEN HARPER IN A WRITTEN STATEMENT

"A new page in the history of civilizations is being written before our very eyes, fulfilling the wishes of so many youths, women and men, from every background and every creed, to see our world become more just and more human."

— GOV. GEN. MICHAËLLE JEAN

"Your election to this high office has inspired people as few other events in recent times have done."

— SOUTH AFRICAN ANTI-APARTHEID ICON NELSON MANDELA

"Yes, President Obama's election is a monumental step, but it is not the realization of my father's dream."

— MARTIN LUTHER KING III SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON

"At a time when so many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world yearn for liberation from the scourge of poverty, hunger and violence, I pray that you will be confirmed in your resolve to promote understanding, co-operation and peace among the nations."

— POPE BENEDICT XVI IN A TELEGRAM TO OBAMA

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Child injured in domestic dispute
An Oakville man has been charged with assault after his 2½-year-old daughter suffered a serious mouth injury during a domestic dispute. Police said the child needed 20 stitches to close a wound after she was struck by one of two phones allegedly thrown by her father at his wife last Friday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Local

Missing couple last seen at GTA train station

Police are searching for a young Ottawa couple who vanished in the GTA more than a week ago. Matt Perkins and Chantalle Hoover travelled to Oshawa to visit family on Dec. 26 of last year. On Jan. 11, they were dropped off at a Via Train station on Bloor Street in Oshawa. They haven't been heard from since. Perkins, 24, is described as six-feet-one with a slender build, shaved head and brown eyes. Hoover, 21, is described as six-feet-one, 130 pounds with a slender build and a fair complexion. She has long brown or reddish hair and blue eyes.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Music

Metro reviews the new album from Bruce Springsteen, Working on a Dream, as well as new music from Animal Collective, Joshua Redman, and Antony and the Johnsons.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Michaëlle Jean pays tribute to the rise of Obama at **metronews.ca/canada**
Video Omar Khadr's case stirs controversy, much like the prison he calls home at **metronews.ca/canada**
Video Mayerthorpe more concerned with healing than restitution at **metronews.ca/canada**
Blogs Hollywood Rants frets about the success of lousy movies at **metronews.ca**
Video Canadians celebrate the inauguration at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries
Ontario Pick 3: 3 0 2; **Ontario Pick 4:** 6 8 1 6 **Encore:** 6866291 **Daily Keno:** 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 24, 25, 30, 36, 38, 51, 57, 64, 65, 67, 69 and 70. These results are not official.

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'I just had to be a part of it'

Torontonians play hooky to watch historic inauguration

When her bus trip to Barack Obama's inauguration in Washington got cancelled, Shirley Opaleke was devastated.

"I just cried and cried and cried," said the 62-year-old Winnipeg resident, who had interrupted a vacation in Jamaica to come to Toronto and board a chartered bus that had to be cancelled when a number of passengers dropped out at the last minute.

But yesterday, as the noon-hour ceremony approached, Opaleke found solace in Yonge-Dundas Square, where hundreds of Torontonians flocked around two big screens to watch the 44th United States president take the oath.

"The joy I'm feeling ... I just can't explain it," Opaleke said, proudly displaying an Obama button pinned to her beret. "The energy from everyone — it's not just for black people, it's for everyone."

Throughout the city, people played hooky — some for an hour, others for the day — gathering in bars, restaurants and schools to witness the historic event.

At Yonge-Dundas Square, the bundled-up spectators stared intently at the screen, shielding their eyes from the glaring midday sun. Some huddled with coffees in hands and shuffled their feet in an effort to keep warm.

Each sighting of Obama set off deafening applause, echoing the crowds in Washington.

"It's a great historic event, not only for Americans, but for everyone around the world," said Donia Kelyana, 21. "I just had to be a part of it."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
Crowds of people gather in Toronto's Yonge-Dundas Square to watch Barack Obama be sworn in as the 44th president of the United States of America.

United States
Presidential
Inauguration

Group held for 7 hours at border

DETAINED A group of young black Canadians on their way to see Barack Obama become U.S. president say they were detained for seven hours at the U.S. border on Monday because of racial stereotyping as their passports were checked and rechecked.

They eventually made it to Washington to see the inauguration of the 44th U.S. president, but only after the long delay at the border.

Tyrone Edwards organized the bus trip to Washington, D.C., for black youth involved in the Toronto-based Remix Project, a cultural non-profit group. In total, 168 people made the trek. The buses were stopped at the Peace Bridge just outside of Buffalo.

According to Edwards, the first two buses cleared customs. But the last bus was stopped by U.S. customs officers who boarded the vehicle and asked about 14 young girls all wearing hijabs for their passports.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

McCallion, council at odds over deal

UTILITY Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion is headed for a showdown with her council over a deal she signed eight years ago giving veto power to the minority shareholder in the city's hydro utility, Enersource.

Councillors have voted to scrap the deal by spending millions of dollars to buy out the 10 per cent stake held by Borealis Infrastructure, but McCallion says that is money the city can ill afford. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Inspired by Obama, stunned by lotto win

LOTTERY Sean and Joni Mayer won't be forgetting Jan. 20, 2009.

It was a day of inspiration and hope for the Washington State couple as they listened to their new leader, Barack Obama, speak eloquently of his vision for the future.

It was also a day of immediate prosperity for the Mayers, as they collected a cheque for almost $7.5 million from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. at its Toronto office for Lotto 6-49's Jan. 3 draw.

"It's a day that we'll remember," Joni said.

Sean, a director of construction for a U.S. company, called it "a day of milestones."

"We're very excited," Joni said of the inauguration and their windfall. "There's new hope in the world now."

While Obama inspired them, their lottery cheque left them a little stunned.

With more than $5 million left after paying U.S. taxes, the couple should be able to invest that and retire on the interest, Joni said.

Sean said he's not planning anything drastic now. "I'm not making any immediate decisions," he said.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

U.S. takes stake

- The Washington State couple will have to pay the U.S. equivalent of $2.1 million in taxes once they cross the border.

News in brief

WIND About 500 Scarborough residents gathered yesterday to learn more about a proposed wind power development off Toronto's eastern shoreline. Toronto Hydro is considering a plan to install up to 60 wind turbines on a natural reef two to four kilometres off Toronto's eastern shoreline. The turbines would be sprinkled in a band as far west as Leslie Street and as far east as Ajax. But many residents voiced concerns over costs and aesthetics at the meeting. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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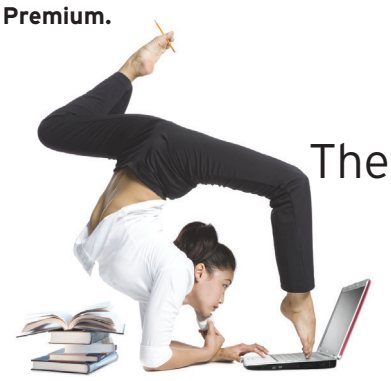

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Adams appointed to port authority board
Federal Transport Minister John Baird has appointed Jeremy Adams to the board of the Toronto Port Authority. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Centre seeks new location for animals

The Toronto Wildlife Centre is looking for a new place to take care of sick, injured and orphaned animals as urban sprawl closes in on its present site in Scarborough.

And Mississauga just might have the ideal spot — on the site of the former Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary made famous by the late ornithologist Roy Ivor.

Centre executive director Nathalie Karvonen confirmed the facility on the edge of Rouge Park near the Toronto Zoo is now too close to housing and a private petting zoo. That wasn't the case when the centre set up there about 10 years ago.

"These are wild animals and very frightened of humans," Karvonen said of why a quieter, more natural setting on a larger site is needed.

A staff member checked out the Mississauga site yesterday. It will be considered further once city officials have been contacted to determine if the property is available.

The Toronto Wildlife Centre is a non-profit, charitable organization and welcomes public offers of land that might be suitable for the centre, Karvonen said. She can be reached at 416-631-0662. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Animals in distress

- About 6,000 birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians in distress are brought in annually. The animals are kept indoors at the Downsview Park intake centre. Once healthy enough for the outdoors, they are taken to the Rouge Park site.

Future of observatory debated

With one person calling it the most "significant heritage decision that will be made in Richmond Hill in recent history," dozens of community members made impassioned pleas to preserve the David Dunlap Observatory property at a hearing yesterday.

In a packed room at Richmond Hill Town Centre, the provincial Conservation Review Board opened up part of its fourth day of hearings to hear statements from the public as to why the observatory and its surrounding lands should be afforded heritage designation.

The conservation board will have the difficult task of deciding how much of the 77 hectares, nestled among subdivisions, should be given a cultural landscape designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Toxic food supply poisoning killer whales

Resident killer whales off the western coasts of Canada and the United States are being poisoned by eating salmon laced with toxic PCBs, says a new study on yet another threat to a species already facing extinction. The study tested the whales' main food supply — chinook salmon — and found PCBs. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada

Interest rate at lowest level ever

The Bank of Canada slashed its key interest rate to the lowest level in history yesterday, conceding that the country's economy has fallen into recession and needs help to recover. The central bank cut the trend-setting overnight rate one-half point to one per cent — below the 1.12 per cent that had served as the bank's floor policy rate in 1958 — while drastically revising downward its view of economic performance this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lack of sprinklers costing lives: Expert

Orillia fire eerily similar to one 14 years ago

Human lives are being put behind cost savings when it comes to installing potentially life-saving sprinklers in old retirement homes, says the president of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs.

In the wake of Monday's fire at Muskoka Heights retirement residence in the north end of Orillia that killed two people and critically injured eight others, Richard Boyes says it is "frustrating" that provincial regulations have failed to require sprinkler systems in all retirement homes.

"What is the cost of a human life?" Boyes said. "Every day that we do not act on this is another day where a life is put at risk."

Boyes's frustration stems from the fact that 14 years ago, a fire at Meadowcroft retirement home in Mississauga — eerily similar to Monday's fire in Orillia — prompted a coroner's jury to make 53 recommendations to improve fire safety in the province, including making sprinkler systems mandatory in homes caring for eight or more residents.

"What is the cost of a human life? Every day that we do not act on this is another day where a life is put at risk."
Richard Boyes

Eight people died in the 1995 fire at the Meadowcroft home, which, like the Orillia facility, did not have sprinklers. Because the two homes were classed as seniors' residences, rather than long-term care facilities or nursing homes, they fell under the same fire prevention rules as private residences.

"If you went back 14 years and look at all the retirement homes that have been rebuilt and redone … think of how many we'd have sprinklered today," Boyes said.

Ontario Fire Marshal Pat Burke said asking owners to retrofit buildings with sprinklers is an expensive proposition.

"What's frustrating for me is that we have technology out there that we're not deploying," Burke said. "I think there have certainly been some fires in a lot of buildings where sprinklers would have made a difference." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Calgary **Watching history**

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Melissa Giovanni, centre, a geology professor from California, and Terri Morrice, right, of Calgary, applaud with fellow staff and students, from the University of Calgary, as they watch Barack Obama's inauguration in Calgary, yesterday.

News in brief

JEAN Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean watched history unfold on a big screen set up in the ballroom of Rideau Hall in Ottawa. She was joined by more than 150 young people, who gathered to watch the U.S. presidential inauguration ceremony yesterday. Several of the youths pointed out the United States is not the only country with a black leader, and that Jean has broken her own share of ground. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Plan to clean 'dirty oil' faulty: Study

ENVIRONMENT Pollution will continue to plague Alberta's oilsands despite plans to pipe harmful greenhouse gases deep underground, according to documents obtained by the Toronto Star.

Part of the task of cleaning up the oilsands involves capturing carbon dioxide emissions and storing them in geological reservoirs in western Canada.

But, despite proposed national caps on air contaminants, chemicals linked to acid rain, respiratory problems and ozone depletion could escape into the atmosphere at an even faster rate, thanks to an estimated tripling of production from one million barrels a day in 2007 to 3.4 million barrels a day in 2017.

Sequestration (as carbon dioxide storage is known), by capturing about 200 megatonnes a year of carbon dioxide, is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 80 per cent in 2017, says an Environment Canada study obtained under the Access to Information Act.

But, the study notes, "there are emissions of CO2 and air contaminants resulting from the generation of the energy required by (carbon capture and storage) facilities. The CO2 emissions offset the volumes captured by the facilities, while the air contaminant emissions add to the load on the environment." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Program to boost cellphone recycling

INTERNET A new online program is showing people where they can recycle their cellphones in cities across the country.

Officials from the telecommunications industry launched Recycle My Cell today in Halifax because Nova Scotia is the first province to officially adopt the program.

Provincial Environment Minister David Morse says the web-based site will give users a list of locations based on their postal code where they can drop off their old cellphones. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gas begins flowing from Russia to Europe
Russian natural gas began flowing into Europe yesterday after a nearly two-week cutoff that left large parts of the continent shivering and underscored its vulnerability and dependence on Russia's energy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Clinton confirmation delayed

The confirmation of Hillary Clinton, left, to be U.S. secretary of state will be held up for at least a day due to the objection of a single senator yesterday. Sen. John Cornyn is blocking a unanimous vote on Clinton because he is not satisfied with Clinton's responses to concerns over foreign donations to her husband Bill Clinton's foundation, his office said. Cornyn's spokesman Kevin Mclaughlin said the senator is not trying to block her confirmation, but is seeking more debate on the donation issue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ban visits devastated Gaza Strip

UN secretary general heartbroken he couldn't bring about truce any sooner

The United Nations chief inspected the devastation wrought by Israel's three-week assault on Gaza yesterday, leading a moment of silence at the smouldering UN headquarters, as the territory's Hamas rulers, triumphant at having survived, held victory rallies amid the ruins.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, appearing stern and saddened at a ceremony at the burned out UN headquarters in Gaza, demanded an Israeli investigation into the strikes on the UN facilities. Ban asked the crowd to observe a moment of silence for victims of the offensive, who included nearly 40 Palestinians who had sought refuge at a UN school shelled by Israel.

"It has been especially troubling and heartbreaking for me as secretary general that I couldn't end this faster," he said. He warned the truce is fragile, and called on Israel and Hamas to "exercise maximum restraint and nurture the ceasefire."

Thousands of Hamas supporters thronged a square outside the remains of the parliament building in Gaza City, which was heavily damaged in an Israeli air strike at the outset of the war. Two men hoisted a sign in carefully scripted Hebrew reading, "The resistance will be victorious, Israel has been defeated."

Israel and Hamas both ceased fire Sunday, after an offensive that claimed the lives of some 1,300 Palestinians and 13 Israelis. The last of Israel's ground troops were expected to pull out of Gaza yesterday if the quiet holds, defence officials said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A costly toll

- The first estimates by independent surveyors said Gaza lost nearly $2 billion US in assets, including 4,100 homes, about 1,500 factories and workshops, 20 mosques, 31 security compounds, and 10 water or sewage lines. Shattered glass and mounds of rubble littered city streets.

Khadr fingered Arar, FBI agent testifies

HEARING Omar Khadr identified Canadian Maher Arar from a photograph the day before the U.S. sent the Ottawa software engineer to Syria where he was tortured, an FBI special agent testified yesterday — a confluence of events Khadr's lawyer derisively called an "amazing coincidence."

In contrast to testimony he gave Monday, special agent Robert Fuller told Khadr's war-crimes hearing the young Canadian was not immediately able to name Arar, but did say he looked familiar.

"We gave him an opportunity to think about the photograph and where he may have seen him," Fuller said under cross-examination.

"A couple of minutes, maybe."

Fuller interrogated Khadr, who had just turned 16, on five different occasions in October at the U.S.-run Bagram prison in Afghanistan, where the badly injured teenager was taken following a deadly firefight near the Afghan town of Khost in July 2002.

The sole purpose of the Oct. 7 interview — the first of the five — was to see if Khadr could in fact identify Arar.

The Toronto-born Khadr told his interrogators he had never seen Arar in Canada, but rather had seen him "several times" at an al Qaeda safehouse in Kabul, and possibly as well at a training camp just outside the Afghan capital, the agent said.

Fuller said he was unaware at the time of the interview that Arar had been detained in New York City two weeks earlier.

Nor did Fuller know the U.S. rendered Arar to Syria on Oct. 8 rather than follow normal practice and return him to Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JANET HAMLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo of a sketch by courtroom artist Janet Hamlin, reviewed by the U.S. Military, Canadian defendant Omar Khadr, far left, sits with his defence team yesterday during a hearing at the U.S. Military Commissions court for war crimes at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Hudson's brother-in-law enters not guilty pleas

LEGAL Jennifer Hudson's brother-in-law pleaded not guilty yesterday to charges he shot to death the Oscar-winning actress's mother and brother and the seven-year-old son of his estranged wife.

William Balfour, 27, entered not guilty pleas to first-degree murder and home invasion charges after nodding to members of his family gathered in the courtroom he appeared in yesterday.

Balfour is married to Jennifer Hudson's sister, Julia. He is charged in the October deaths of the sisters' mother, their brother, and Julia Hudson's seven-year-old son. Prosecutors allege Balfour shot the three in a jealous rage because he was upset Julia Hudson had been dating another man.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Out of sight

- Hudson released her self-titled debut album in the fall but hasn't made public appearances since the killings.

Warner Bros. slashes 800 jobs

ECONOMY Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros. Entertainment movie studio said yesterday it is eliminating nearly 800 jobs, or 10 per cent of its global work force, and is examining further cost reductions.

The cuts come after the studio posted a nine per cent drop in third-quarter revenue to $2.88 billion, despite the success of the summer blockbuster, The Dark Knight.

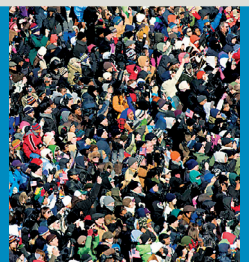
Earlier this month, parent Time Warner said it will post a loss for the full year due to a $25-billion write-down of its assets in cable, magazines and Internet, caused in part by the advertising slowdown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. websites experience slowdown

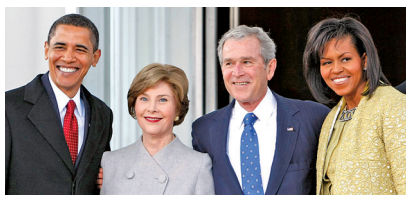
Like never before, Americans watched the inauguration of an incoming president online through live video streaming across their computers, reacting to them by blogging, vlogging and tweeting. The Internet's top 40 sites slowed down by as much as 60 per cent when the ceremony started at 11 a.m. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Presidential
Inauguration



Packed house

More than one million people crammed onto the National Mall and along the inauguration parade route to catch a glimpse of the new U.S. first family. METRO NEWS SERVICES



'Humbled by the task before us'

Obama pays homage to ancestors in vision for a new U.S. future

Barack Obama's first sentence to the American people as U.S. president was, "I stand here today humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you have bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors."

Sometimes a moment of history catches the world by surprise with its sheer enormity.

Standing on the terrace of the Canadian Embassy here yesterday, hundreds of Canadians, Americans and others stared toward the western front of the U.S. Capitol building in rapt silence, their faces merging with images of the vast crowds that surrounded them, multiplying across a giant TV screen.

And when Barack Obama took his solemn oath of office as America's 44th president, their cheers magnified as though the barriers of colour, creed, politics and nationality had dissolved together into one human voice of global significance.

Canada and the United States have had their differences, and America was seldom more embattled with friends as well as foes than during George W. Bush's administration.

But as Obama made his inaugural address, reaching out to "each nation and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity," his words held meaning for people far beyond his own shores.

"This is the fulfilment of an old dream and the beginning of a new dream," said Wale Ade Sanya, an Ottawa investment broker whose family originated in Nigeria.

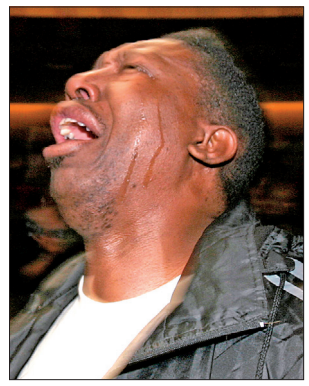
"It's a large dream, the dream of one world."

His sentiments were echoed by many who stood moist-eyed as Obama took the oath as president of Canada's most important international partner.

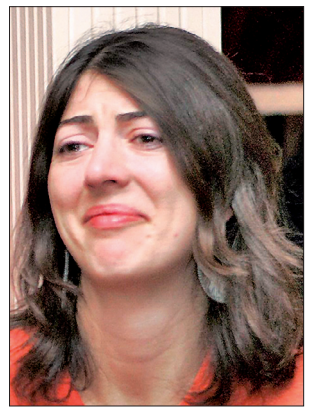
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barack Obama, left, joined by his wife, Michelle, takes the oath of office yesterday from Chief Justice John Roberts to become the 44th president of the United States at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

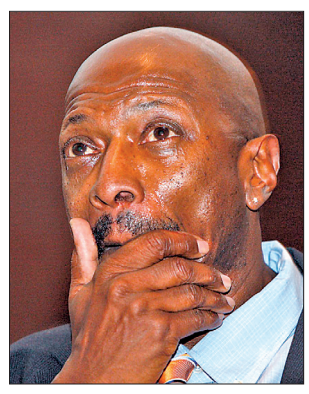


E.J. Chilkds, of Jonesboro, Ga.



Alicia Vance of New Orleans.

Aunt Vikki Strange, 86, of Altadena, Calif.



Larry Walter of Denver.

Words of wisdom from Obama's speech

• *Forty-four Americans have now taken the presidential oath. The words have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity and the still waters of peace. Yet, every so often the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms.*

• *We remain a young nation, but in the words of Scripture, the time has come to set aside childish things. The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness*

• *It has not been the path for the faint-hearted — for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame. Rather, it has been the risk-takers, the doers, the makers of things — some celebrated but more often men and women obscure in their labour, who have carried us up the long, rugged path towards prosperity and freedom.*

• *In the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words. With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come. Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end.*

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dick Cheney in a wheelchair
Dick Cheney appeared in a wheelchair. Yet another serious health ailment? No. Boxes. He pulled a back muscle, a spokesperson said, moving his belongings into his new house. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Presidential Inauguration

Obama is fashion first lady

Michelle brings her forward-thinking style to D.C.

U.S. first lady Michelle Obama wore a sparkling yellow sheath dress with matching coat by Cuban-born American designer Isabel Toledo for the inauguration of her husband, a choice many applauded as a cheerful message of hope and a vote for the American fashion industry.

In some light, the embellished ensemble took on a pale greenish cast, co-ordinating nicely with green gloves from J. Crew and Jimmy Choo green patent pumps.

U.S. President Barack Obama wore a red tie and white shirt with his suit, topped with an overcoat adorned with an American flag pin.

Their daughters were style icons in their own right, with 10-year-old Malia in a double-breasted periwinkle-blue coat with a blue-ribbon bow at the waist, and Sasha, 7, in a pink coat with orange scarf and satin belt, a coral-coloured dress peeking out at the hem.

Their coats were from Crewcuts by J. Crew.

The fashion industry has anxiously looked to the election of Obama for months, embracing his wife as an emblem and ambassador of modern style, who wears clothes from young designers as well as mainstream American retailers.

Toledo, who had a short stint at Anne Klein but is considered relatively avante garde, is exactly the kind of designer Obama gravitates toward.

"There is nothing that comes close to this moment," Toledo said, speaking in New York.

"It's not just my moment and hers, but it's the world's ... It's not only what she's wearing. It's what the moment represents."

Toledo designed the outfit with hopes Obama would choose it for the ceremony, though Toledo did not know for certain until yesterday morning.

Toledo said the coat is made of wool lace in a silk net, with a silk radzimir underneath and a layer of pashmina for warmth. Obama also wore a cardigan with the matching dress, and a jewel-like embellishment at her neckline.

She chose the "lemon grass" colour for the optimism it represents.

"I didn't want a traditional blue or red," she said.

"That colour has sunshine in it. I fell in love with it. So did she."

That unusual shade of yellow "really popped" on Michelle Obama's complexion, said fashion designer Kai Milla, wife of Stevie Wonder and an invited guest to the swearing-in ceremony.

"What I recognized more than anything from our new first lady and Hillary (Clinton) and everyone else is that everyone was fresh," she said.

The overall look was largely a hit by fashion experts and critics.

"She's off to an auspicious start," said Hamish Bowles, Vogue magazine's European editor-at-large who curated the Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute exhibit on one former first lady — Jackie Kennedy in 2001.

"Mrs. Obama's choice today was appropriate, dignified and elegant but it also had a considerable element of fashion panache," he added.

"She's finding great American talent."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barack and Michelle Obama dance at their first of 10 presidential balls yesterday.

Stumbling his way in as the U.S. president

OATH Both Chief Justice John Roberts and U.S. President Barack Obama stumbled slightly over wording of the presidential oath of office yesterday, providing a brief, awkward moment in an otherwise smooth inauguration ceremony.

Initially, Obama interrupted Roberts midway through the opening line, in which the president repeats his name and solemnly swears.

Next in the oath, which is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, is the phrase "that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States."

But Roberts rearranged the order of the words, not saying "faithfully" until after "president of the United States."

That appeared to throw Obama off. He stopped abruptly at the word "execute."

Recognizing something was off, Roberts then repeated the phrase, putting "faithfully" in the right place but without repeating "execute."

Obama then repeated Roberts' original, incorrect version: "the office of president of the United States faithfully."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leader

- After the flub they were back on track. Except that the oath was taken five minutes late. Technically, Obama was already president anyway — the U.S. Constitution says the term of the incoming president begins at noon on Jan. 20.

White House photo.
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EMS encounters problems treating injured

Crowds were so thick that medical personnel had trouble getting people quickly to EMS tents. The EMS department spokesman said everyone who needed help eventually received treatment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Presidential Inauguration

LUIS ALVAREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crowds gather along the National Mall yesterday during the swearing-in ceremony of U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington.

Big delays slow crowds

A vast, excited crowd of more than one million bore witness yesterday to a transfer of American power like none before it. The blare of regal trumpets and thunder of cannon were familiar. The transition from Republican to Democrat, and grey hair to dark, had happened before.

But this was white to black, a shattering of racial barriers finally made complete when Barack Obama made it through a bumbled oath-taking, delivered a momentous by definition speech and got back to being his unflappable self.

The Democrat who charged onto the national scene saying this was not a nation of red states and blue states, but the United States, became president while wearing a red tie, the Republican colour.

Republican George W. Bush, president no more, wore a blue tie, the Democratic colour. They embraced at the Capitol and walked out together.

"Everybody is behind him," said Mikki Hill, 26, who travelled from Winston-Salem, N.C., and marvelled at the multiracial multitudes. "Everybody's come from as far as the Earth is wide."

Energized by the moment, hordes clogged the scene, enduring below-freezing temperatures. Starting before dawn, with the Capitol bathed in lights, they streamed from jammed subway stations and thronged past parked buses, emergency vehicles and street vendors to Pennsylvania Avenue and the National Mall.

Ticket holders approaching the inaugural site filed through security sweeps in lines coiled like cinnamon rolls.

They cheered dignitaries as they came on to the inaugural stand at the Capitol. Obama walked quietly and with the merest stirring of a smile through the halls to his position on the stand and his place in history.

The crowd erupted in jubilation as he strode out.

But at a security checkpoint for Obama supporters holding tickets for the swearing-in ceremony, thousands queued before 8 a.m. The crowd grew frustrated, pushing forward as noon approached, and officials neither admitted anyone nor provided an explanation, said Beth Zollars, an Obama supporter from Leawood, Kan.

"People were waving their purple tickets in the air, saying, 'Please let us in, please let us in,'" said Zollars, who served on a fundraising committee for the Obama campaign in Kansas City, Mo. "It was just a terrible sense of disappointment because we took a lot of time and money and energy to get here, because you feel like you're missing the historic part of why you came here."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of people wait to enter through a security checkpoint yesterday at 7th Street to attend the inaugural celebration in Washington at the National Mall.

"It was a terrible sense of disappointment because we took a lot of time and money and energy to get here."
Beth Zollars on security

Thousands welcome Bush home

TEXAS Waving cardboard red, white and blue 'W's, thousands gathered in Midland's town square yesterday to welcome former U.S. president George W. Bush and his wife to their post-presidential home in Texas.

"It's a special day, but it's a sad day," said Dudley Winn, a cotton farmer who drove two hours from Lubbock to greet Bush on his first stop after leaving office.

"He did the job we asked him to do. He kept our values safe."

As about 20,000 watched, the jet carrying Bush and his wife, Laura, flew over downtown so they could see Centennial Plaza from the air.

The jet landed shortly before 5 p.m.

Earlier, excerpts of some of Bush's speeches played on a large TV screen to the crowd.

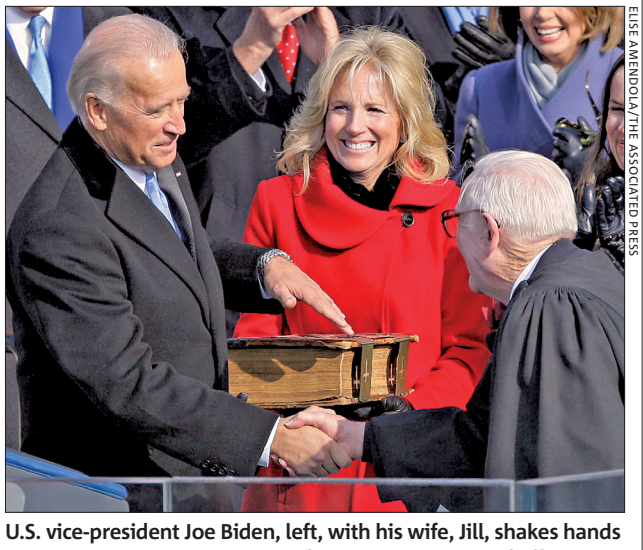
The signs waved by those in the crowd included one from a little boy, reading: "President Bush, thank you for keeping me safe" in multicoloured lettering.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former president George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, wave as they board a marine helicopter on their way home to Texas.

ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. vice-president Joe Biden, left, with his wife, Jill, shakes hands with Justice John Paul Stevens after taking the oath of office.

The Day in brief

KENNEDY Senator Edward M. Kennedy, ill with a brain tumour, was hospitalized yesterday but quickly reported feeling well after suffering a seizure at a post-inauguration luncheon for President Barack Obama. Kennedy had appeared in good health and spirits a few hours earlier when he stepped out of the Capitol and onto the inauguration platform.

IRAQ WAR President Barack Obama's promise to end the war in Iraq will be on the agenda today when the new commander-in-chief meets with top national security aides and senior commanders. Senior military officers say Obama has summoned his holdover defence secretary, Robert Gates, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, to the White House, along with other members of his National Security Council.

REGULATIONS One of President Barack Obama's first acts is to order federal agencies to halt all pending regulations until his administration can review them. The order went out shortly after Obama was inaugurated president, in a memorandum signed by new White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Aretha heralds new hope

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan
Journalist & Media Consultant

My fellow Canadians:

Did you have your noses pressed against the glass of history yesterday?

I know I did. In my case, the glass was the 56-inch Sony at our house, a.k.a. the Big Unit, and let me tell you, it was the catbird seat.

Canadians have an odd, passive relationship with the United States: We watch it on TV.

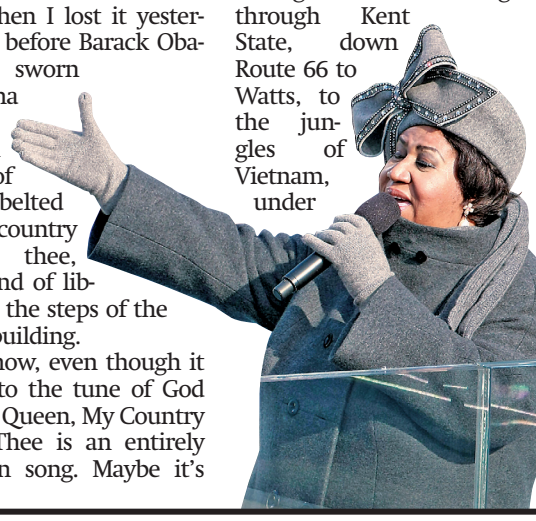
Even more so these days because it's getting tough to go there. You have to wait a couple hours in a lineup at the border, and when you get there, there's a 26-cent premium on everything, so you can't even get a decent bargain any more.

But I digress.

For about 60 years, endlessly fascinated, we have watched America become the world's most powerful nation … on television. We loved Lucy, grokked Spock, mourned Kennedy, got lifted up by Martin Luther King, observed Shock and Awe in shock and awe. We worshipped the American Idol and tried to copy it, although the Canadian version invariably can't sing.

"In one three-minute funky fanfare, (Aretha Franklin) sang away the bitter shadows of the last decade."

Aretha Franklin can sing. Boy, can she ever. Even now, when's she's old and stout. And that's when I lost it yesterday, just before Barack Obama was sworn in, Aretha got up and with a choir of angels, belted out "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty," on the steps of the Capitol building.



Somehow, even though it is sung to the tune of God Save the Queen, My Country 'Tis of Thee is an entirely American song. Maybe it's the refrain that Aretha sang and sang and sang over again, circling around the pitch like a Motown voodoo goddess: "Let freedom ring!"

And that's when, I'm not ashamed to say, I lost it. Tears streamed down my face, and I succumbed to the joyful season finale/debut of the longest running series on TV — from Birmingham, through Dallas, via Chicago, through Kent State, down Route 66 to Watts, to the jungles of Vietnam, under the hanging chads of Florida, onto the streets of Baghdad, through Wall Street, to the Lincoln Memorial, to the inauguration of Barack Obama.

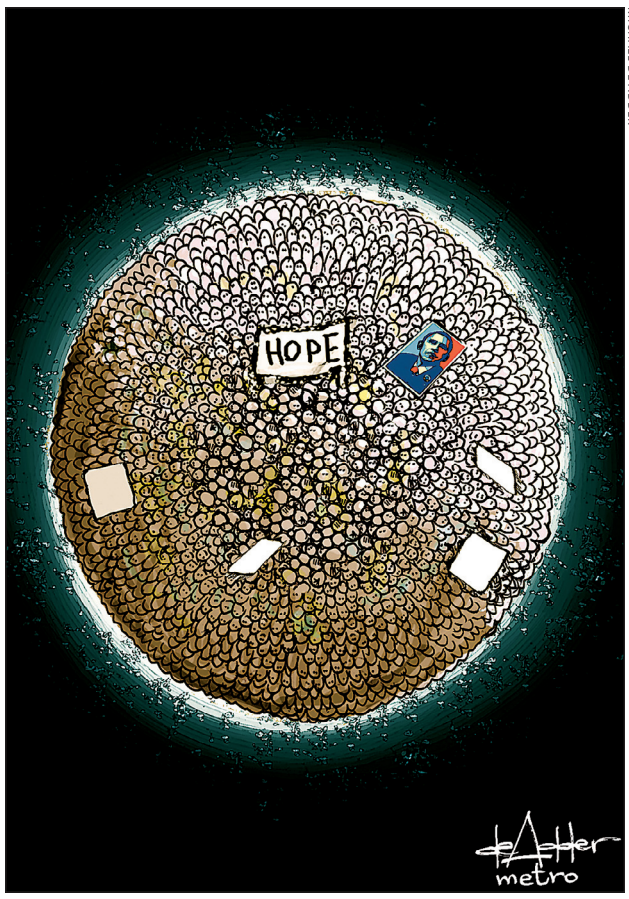
United States
Presidential
Inauguration

But they had me at Aretha and Let Freedom Ring. In one three-minute funky fanfare, she sang away the bitter shadows of the last decade, the harrowing, vicious, sardonic cynicism of the Bushes, the Cheneys and the Roves, and heralded the possibility of what we too easily refer to as "hope" and "change."

Barack Obama stands for something more rich and sonorous than mere hope and change, but I can't really describe it; I can only watch and listen from the other side of the glass and hope they never take this marvellous reality TV show off the air.

It's my favourite.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Reaction: Obama-mania sweeps across Canada

"He gives us an example of strength as a leader, and it's not about what you look like anymore or the colour of your skin. It's about who you are and what you stand for."
—Lincoln Thorne, Vancouver

"I watched his public address. I'm very excited. I think it's going to be amazing for the U.S. and on a global spectrum. I think it's a great change."
—Cathlin Antonello, Ottawa

"The biggest change will be everyone's mindset. He'll encourage everybody, no matter what race they are from, that they can live up to their dreams."
—Frances Sonde, Calgary

"Rosa Parks sat down so (Martin Luther) King could walk. King walked so Barack could run. Barack ran so that all of us can fly."
—Rev. Elias Mwamba Mutuale, Nova Scotia

Letters

T.O. faces many more issues than gourmet food carts

With all of the problems that Toronto has with people sleeping in the streets, thousands being forced to use food banks, there is actually a city councillor whose pet project is to bring gourmet food carts to the city.

I'm sure that there have been throngs of taxpayers holding protest marches to make sure our fine city has gourmet food carts.

It's astonishing that this type of frivolous nonsense upstages the many things in our city.

BERNIE MERRETT, TORONTO

Strike may inconvenience, but right to strike paramount

In light of the York University strike, some have argued for the Ontario government to enact back-to-work legislation.

In any free and democratic society, which seeks to protect human rights and the rights and safety of workers, such an act by the government is unacceptable.

The Ontario Labour Relations Act was enacted years ago, after years of poor treatment to employees.

The government of the day and its constituents saw this as an essential protection.

The act already requires a lengthy period of negotiations and ratifications prior to workers being in a legal strike position.

We should acknowledge workers rights and the abuses that would result if we enact back-to-work legislation.

Such legislation will take us all back in time; and will result in poor and perhaps even unsafe working conditions for workers, something Ontarians do not want to see ever again.

Yes, York University students are facing some inconveniences today, but unfortunately, justice comes at a cost.

The protection of workers is important, and it is very likely that the majority of York students will some day, if not already, become workers, which right to strike protects.

EDWARD CHOI, MARKHAM

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Audio giant Bose to cut 1,000 jobs

Bose Corp., known for its high-end audio equipment, is cutting 1,000 jobs — about 10 per cent of its workforce — citing the decline in the global economy. Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate Amar Bose started the company in 1964. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Chrysler, Fiat hook up

Fiat and Chrysler have agreed to form a strategic alliance that would give the Italian auto company a 35 per cent stake in the troubled U.S. carmaker.

The deal means Chrysler, which is fighting off bankruptcy and struggling to sell less fuel efficient larger models, would have access to new markets and cheaper, environmentally-friendly technologies.

Canadian plants

- In Canada, Chrysler employs more than 9,000 people and has an assembly plant in Brampton, which builds sedans, a minivan plant in Windsor, and a parts plant in Toronto.

Fiat Group, which makes Fiat, Lancia and Alfa Romeo vehicles, would gain a foothold in the huge U.S. market. The company has bounced back recently with cars such as the tiny 500 two-door hatchback, a hit remake of an earlier iconic Fiat model.

Under the deal, Chrysler will be able to manufacture and market in the U.S. new models based on Fiat platforms as well as the Italian company's own products.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bell offers retirement lure to 1,500 unionized employees

TELECOM Bell Canada says it wants to cut its workforce by another 1,500 jobs through a retirement incentive, the latest move by Canada's largest telecom operator to streamline and cut operating costs.

Bell said yesterday the offer affects workers represented by the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers' Union of Canada.

Bell, which has more than 41,000 employees, said the retirement offer is not an early retirement program since it applies only to workers who meet certain criteria and are already eligible to retire this year and in 2010.

Bell said it plans to stagger the dates on which these employees retire to ensure there is no impact on service to customers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Smoking in motor vehicles with anyone under 16 is illegal and the fine is up to $250.00.

As of January 21, 2009, the Smoke-Free Ontario Act prohibits smoking or having lighted tobacco in a motor vehicle while a person under 16 years old is present. Second-hand smoke levels in motor vehicles can be up to 27 times greater than in a smoker's home. It's even a risk on short trips and when the windows are rolled down.

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Forsberg talks another comeback

Peter Forsberg is back skating, testing his ailing right foot in what could be his last attempt at a comeback. "If it doesn't work now I'm forced to give it up for good," Forsberg, 35, told a Swedish newspaper yesterday. Forsberg made a late-season return to the Colorado Avalanche last season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Gold for Jasey Jay

Canadian Jasey-Jay Anderson, left, won gold at the world snowboard championships yesterday, securing his spot on the 2010 Canadian Olympic team. The Mont-Tremblant, Que., native finished first in the parallel giant slalom and was joined on the podium by fellow Canadian Matthew Morison, who won bronze. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Sport 'pales in comparison'

Muhammad Ali and Magic Johnson had prime seats at the U.S. Capitol. LeBron James watched from a hotel room in Los Angeles with his two sons.

Across the Unired States, coaches rescheduled practices, and even the Super Bowl had to take a back seat yesterday to the inauguration of U.S. President Barack Obama.

"This day will last forever," said James. "It will be in books. It will be in schools. It will be in classes. It will be on test questions. It means a lot not only on this day, but for the rest of the days to come and the years to come."

United States
Presidential
Inauguration

It takes a lot bring the sports world to a standstill, but there was no ignoring the magnitude of the moment. Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin pushed back his first pre-Super Bowl news conference one hour so it wouldn't conflict with the inauguration.

"What we're doing here today pales with what's going on," Tomlin said.

The Boston Celtics, on the way to Miami for a road game, voted to change their flight schedule and arrive in time for the players to watch the ceremony from their hotel, even though coach Doc Rivers offered to tape it for them.

"They said, 'No, we want to see it live. We think it's that important,'" Rivers said.

"One of them said, 'Twenty or 30 years from now, I want to say I saw him speak live when he came in.'"

Guard Ray Allen upped them all, attending the inauguration in person with Celtics owner Steve Pagliuca before rejoining the team in Florida.

Pagliuca said he was proud to represent a Celtics team that was the first in the NBA to draft a black player and to hire a black coach.

"It was people coming together; kind of a peaceful feeling came over the crowd," Pagliuca told The Associated Press. "The crowd had a hope and a joy. For that many people to be that peaceful was very moving."

Even ESPN deviated from its sports programming to broadcast the swearing-in, and ESPN Classic followed with a 10-hour "Breaking Barriers" marathon featuring African-American athletes such as Arthur Ashe, Jack Johnson and Eddie Robinson.

Sports metaphors were heavily in play. Louisville basketball Rick Pitino, who campaigned for Rudy Guiliani during the primaries, said he was thrilled by Obama's speech but noted the challenges the new president is facing.

"I think, unfortunately, he's taking over a bad program with bad players right now," Pitino said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inauguration **The champ, always**

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Muhammad Ali sits with his wife, Yolanda, on the U.S. presidential inauguration stage before the ceremony yesterday.

Sports in brief

NLL The struggling Toronto Rock are making major changes early in the 2009 National Lacrosse League season. After opening the season with a 1-2 record, the team fired head coach Glenn Clark, co-coach Jim Veltman and assistant Terry Bullen yesterday. Jamie Batley takes over the head coaching job.

NHL New York Islanders goalie Rick DiPietro is out for the season because of continuing problems with a surgically repaired knee. The 27-year-old goalie has played only five games and won't see any more action this season, the Islanders announced yesterday.

MLB The Toronto Blue Jays agreed to one-year deals with infielder Jose Bautista and relievers Jason Frasor and Jeremy Accardo yesterday, avoiding arbitration with all three.

MLB Canadian pitcher Erik Bedard and the Seattle Mariners agreed yesterday to a $7.75-million US, one-year contract that gave him a raise of $750,000 and avoided salary arbitration.

MLB Closer Jonathan Papelbon and the Boston Red Sox have agreed to a $6.25-million US, one-year contract that avoided salary arbitration.

MLB Philadelphia Phillies first baseman Ryan Howard asked for $18 million US in salary arbitration yesterday, the third-highest figure submitted since the process began in 1974. Philadelphia offered him $14-million, a raise of $4 million.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tonight

VS

7:30 p.m.
TV: TSN
Radio: AM 640

Despite several injuries including the absence of two-thirds of their top line in Phil Kessel and Milan Lucic, the Bruins still easily top the Eastern Conference. Boston has scored the second most goals in the league, trailing only Detroit. Uncharacteristically, though, they have lost two in a row, including a 5-4 loss to St. Louis in a shootout on Monday. Boston's power play is ranked third in the league.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tonight

VS

7:30 p.m.
TV: TSN2
Radio: FAN 590

The Pistons snapped a five-game losing streak with a win in Memphis on Monday. They've been experimenting with lineups and have been playing small of late, which could help Toronto's rebounding woes. Jermaine O'Neal said Monday he was certain to play tonight but until he's seen in uniform, nothing is for certain. Jose Calderon is likely still out, giving Anthony Parker his third start at point guard.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 4 Montreal 2
Ottawa 3 Washington 2
Carolina 2 Pittsburgh 1
Los Angeles 5 Minnesota 2
N.Y. Rangers 4 Anaheim 2
Columbus at Edmonton
Detroit at Phoenix
Vancouver at San Jose

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

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Atlanta 105 Chicago 102
Sacramento at Denver
Minnesota at Utah

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Ross buys majority stake in Fish
Stephen Ross became majority owner of the Miami Dolphins yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jackie would be proud

YorkReport

Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

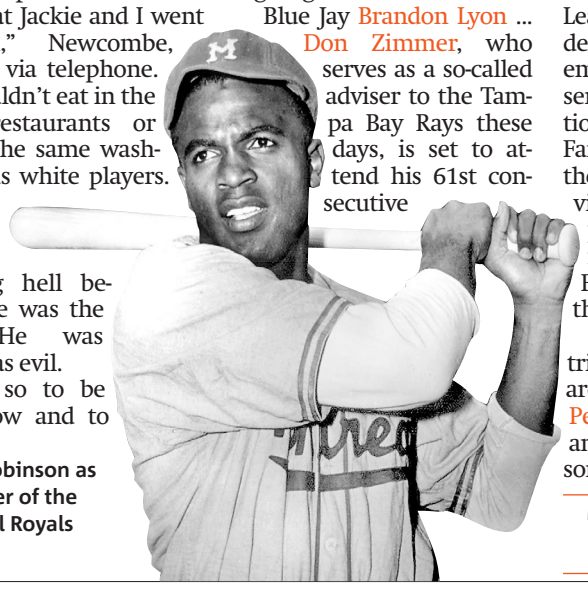
Somewhere, Jackie Robinson was cartwheeling yesterday. That was the word from Don Newcombe, Robinson's old friend and teammate. It was Robinson, of course, who busted Major League Baseball's colour barrier in 1947, when he became its first African-American player.

Newcombe, who joined Robinson with the Dodgers two years later and emerged as a superstar pitcher, remains an official spokesman for the club in Los Angeles. And he told me tears streamed down his face as Barack Obama was inaugurated as U.S. president yesterday.

"It's impossible to articulate what Jackie and I went through," Newcombe, 82, said via telephone. "We couldn't eat in the same restaurants or pee in the same washrooms as white players. Jackie went through a living hell because he was the first. He was viewed as evil.

"And so to be alive now and to see Obama becoming president is truly incredible. I wish Jackie were alive. I wish he could see this. He'd have been so happy, so relieved. I'm sure he's doing cartwheels today."

Robinson died in 1972 of a heart attack. He was only 53.



Jackie Robinson as a member of the Montreal Royals in 1946.

• Dozens of NBA luminaries skipped practices yesterday — and will consequently be slapped with club fines — to attend the inauguration festivities.

Many were serious financial contributors to Obama, including LeBron James, Chauncey Billups, Baron Davis, Dwight Howard, Emeka Okafor, Luke Walton and Chris Duhon.

Duhon, as reported here in October, even played pickup hoops against Obama.

Asked what was Obama's best basketball move, Duhon deadpanned: "I don't think he has one."

• The Detroit Tigers, you should know, are close to signing a new closer — ex-Blue Jay Brandon Lyon ... Don Zimmer, who serves as a so-called adviser to the Tampa Bay Rays these days, is set to attend his 61st consecutive training camp next month, despite suffering a stroke that prevented him from speaking about a week ago ... Add the names of Vladimir Guerrero (recovering from knee surgery) and Albert Pujols (recovering from elbow surgery) to the growing list of superstars who won't likely participate in March's World Baseball Classic.

• Quarterback Kurt Warner, a former Arena Football League player who was deemed unworthy of NFL employment for years, essentially sealed his induction into the league's Hall of Fame Sunday, when he led the Arizona Cardinals to a victory over the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC final and to a berth into the Feb. 1 Super Bowl against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

It will be Warner's third trip to the Bowl. His teams are 8-2 in post-season play. Peyton Manning's Indianapolis Colts, in comparison, are 7-8 in the playoffs.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

No love for NFC

• The Arizona Cardinals have scored at least 30 points in each of their three playoff wins but oddsmakers largely feel they've yet to play a defence as good as Pittsburgh's, which they'll face in the Super Bowl. The Steelers are seven-point favourites. "The AFC has a little more respect as far as the way they play power football," said Jay Rood, MGM Mirage Inc. race and sports books director.

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Metro Drive

Ford wins CAA awards

Ford has won two CAA Pyramid Awards for its new blind spot mirror and 100 per cent recycled seats, Canadian Driver reports. The innovative mirror, which won the CAA Pyramid Award for safety innovation of the year, uses a secondary convex spotter mirror that provides an optimized view of the driver's blind spot. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Making waves in Montreal

Awards and debuts at auto show

Several cars made their Canadian debuts and a few received prestigious awards at the Montreal International Auto Show, which kicked off last week. Here are some of the highlights.

The Scion Fuse sports concept.

ECO AWARDS FOR TOYOTA

Toyota Yaris and Toyota Prius won the title of best-in-class for fuel efficiency in the 2009 ecoENERGY for Vehicle Awards at the Montreal International Auto Show.

Last week, Toyota also unveiled the all-new 2010 Prius, which features a fuel-efficiency rating of 4.0 L/100 km city and 4.2 L/100 km highway.

On sale this spring, the 2010 Prius will offer Canadians even more innovation, versatility, choice, safety, and value while setting the stage for the future of transportation.

For 2009, the Nissan Cube brings a unique blend of fashion and function.

"When they shop for a new vehicle, consumers rely on information like the ecoENERGY fuel efficiency ratings to make smart choices. That's why winning these awards is such an honour for Toyota," said Stephen Beatty, managing director at Toyota Canada Inc.

SCION'S HERE

Scion made its first Canadian auto show appearance with the Fuse sports coupe concept in Montreal.

Scion, which hopes to woo urban youth, pushes the limits of a coupe concept with Fuse by combining entertainment, digital technology, and versatility into one sinister looking package.

Inspiration came from the "HAKO" super GT racing cars of Japan, commonly known as the JGTC series. From the side, the Fuse has a low, aggressive stance with a race helmet-inspired wraparound window that provides a panoramic view.

The FUSE is also equipped with extreme levels of personalization accessories. Headlights and fog lamps can be programmed to illuminate in various colours. Videos or images can be downloaded and viewed on a concealed LCD screen behind the front badge.

The all-new 2009 Infiniti G37 convertible is scheduled to arrive at Canadian dealerships this spring.

SMART BRABUS DEBUTS

The new 2009 Smart fortwo BRABUS made its Canadian debut at the Palais des Congrès. The BRABUS will be in Canadian showrooms by February.

Building on the existing Smart fortwo platform, the BRABUS has been tailored for enhanced appearance and handling. A sportier exhaust tuning along with a sports chassis and suspension components have been designed to offer a smooth ride and added comfort.

Inside, the car is equipped with sports pedals made of brushed aluminum, stylish velour floor mats embroidered with the BRABUS logo, standard heated leather seats, power steering and additional dashboard instruments, which are all options on the regular Smart fortwo.

NISSAN'S DOUBLE BILL

Nissan Canada revealed two vehicles in Montreal. The 2009 Nissan Cube, brand new to the North American market, and the completely redesigned 2009 Nissan 370Z will be available to Canadians this spring.

For 2009, the Cube brings a unique blend of fashion and function, building on the non-traditional design with an improved confident look that has been compared to a "bulldog in sunglasses."

The 2009 Nissan 370Z, the sixth-generation model of the iconic Z sports car, is lighter, more powerful than ever before and offers enhanced handling, quality and style.

COUPE DE G

Infiniti added the all-new 2009 G37 convertible to its family of Canadian cars in Montreal.

Arriving at dealers this spring, the G coupe retains its long cabin and graceful trunk proportions through use of a fully-automatic three-piece hardtop design. The new model also adds a 325-horsepower, 3.7-litre V6 engine.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Toyota Prius won the title of best-in-class for fuel efficiency in the 2009 ecoENERGY for Vehicle Awards.

Riding shotgun rules for the iPod generation

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

Veteran auto journalist

Say you're driving and the person riding shotgun has been on his cellphone for 50 minutes or so. Talking about his neighbour's pug dog or about his lazy coworker or about what he saw last night on George Stroumboulopoulos. Something in that vein. Do you have the right then — according to accepted shotgun guidelines — to take his cellphone away from his mouth and ear and move it closer to one of his other orifices? I don't know either. I'm just asking.

Because the basic rules for calling and riding shotgun have been around a long time, but technology — automotive and otherwise — has undergone tremendous change of late, and this is impacting the driver and front-seat passenger relationship, and possibly not always in a good way.

Of course, some Western pulp fiction writer coined the term "riding shotgun" back in the 1920s, referring to the armed guard that sat next to the driver of a stagecoach. It became entrenched in popular culture and began to gravitate to the automotive vernacular in the mid-1950s, when it was heard almost every week on the TV series Gunsmoke.

"The basic rules for calling and riding shotgun have been around a long time, but technology has undergone tremendous change of late, and this is impacting the driver and front-seat passenger relationship."

Discussions surrounding the rules for "calling shotgun" have literally become a small industry. Many websites are devoted to the topic, as are several publications.

Everyone must be familiar with the basic rules, such as: The first person to yell "shotgun" gets to ride in the front seat; shotgun may only be called if all occupants of the vehicle are outside and on the way to said vehicle; early calls are strictly prohibited; the driver has final say on all ties and disputes and has the right to suspend or remove all shotgun privileges.

A more obscure rule? If one passenger becomes so ill that the other occupants feel he/she will toss their cookies, then the ill person should be given shotgun to make appropriate use of the window.

I love shotgun philosophy because it entails so much of what it is to be human — luck, timing, skill, friendship, accommodation, survival of the fittest, acceptance, responsibility, and the pursuit of a code that everyone can agree on, but one that also needs constant revision and vigilance.

To that end I think people should take more pride in their shotgun roles. If you're yakking on the cell or grooving to you personal iPod or scrolling your BlackBerry for big whacks of time then I believe you're really letting the side down. Just because you actually don't have to wield a shotgun while riding shotgun doesn't mean you should lower your guard or your standards of companionship.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Mini with serious muscle

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada

The 2009 Mini John Cooper Works

When it comes to performance driving, weight is enemy No. 1. Similarly, if you're trying to squeeze every rolling metre out of a litre of fuel, too much junk-in-the-trunk is not the way to go.

Following this line of reason, a lightweight car with a highly-tuned small displacement engine is a formula for fun and efficient motoring.

Checking all these boxes is the 2009 John Cooper Works Mini — a Mini Cooper S coupe with a serious injection of oats. The 1.6L DOHC direct-injection turbocharged four is tuned to crank out 208 horsepower and 192 lb.-ft. of torque from 1,850-5,600 rpm, up 36 and 15, respectively from the Cooper S. Put your foot in it, and there is an overboost function that momentarily kicks the torque up to 207 lb.-ft.

This car is very quick. Deceptively so, in fact, so it's a good thing the central speedo is the size of a manhole cover. "Street racing" velocities sneak up on you in the blink of an eye.

How many times has the Mini's handling been compared to a go-kart? Enough for me to visit a couple kart-racer buddies who were doing some testing at Goodwood Kartways. They thought the car was a hoot, and confirmed its dynamics were somewhat akin to their high-powered karts.

Thanks to some bespoke suspension tuning and sticky 205/45R17 Continental ContiSportContact footwear, the Mini's already quick reflexes are notched up to Chihuahua-on-amphetamine levels here. Turn-in is crazy quick and the upgraded Works brakes require a light touch. With the Sport button on the console engaged, steering and throttle responses sharpen. It takes a little while to recalibrate your inputs to drive this car smoothly.

One thing you can't smooth out is the ride — on rough roads you'll think you're sitting in a paint shaker. However, when lasering through bends and feeling the neutrality in the chassis, all is forgiven.

On the flip side, this car settles into a comfortable cruiser at 120 km/h with the little turbo four humming away at 2,800 rpm. My tester had a lovely tan leather interior and the $1,900 JCW Comfort Package that includes a large double sunroof, heated front seats, automatic climate control, rain sensing wipers and auto headlights. The $750 audio upgrade sounded very good, too. Fit and finish are exemplary. It's your call whether the interior design is super-cool chic or Fisher-Price gone horribly wrong.

Externally, the JC Works Mini gets a more aggressive front fascia with unique grill inserts, 16-spoke lightweight alloys, a large rear spoiler, and a pair of honkin' chromed exhaust tips that broadcast a pretty sexy bark.

Yes, the 2009 JC Works Mini might be as cute as a puppy, but beware, it pulls like one, too. Hammer the throttle in second gear and you're fighting to keep on the straight and narrow. Do the same at 100 km/h in third gear and it will still try to yank you into the corn.

All this fun comes with a price, however. The 2009 JC Works Mini lists for $38,390, with this specimen coming in at an eye-watering $42,020.

Comfort can be taken in the fact that the mutual thrashing between myself and JCWM burned only 9.1 L/100 km of premium fuel.

Designer bags to put you in top gear

FASHION Detroit's "big three" may be in trouble but one designer has done well out of defunct vehicles — Kim White makes handbags from vintage automotive fabrics. White found a warehouse in Los Angeles that was selling off textiles that were destined for the seats of 1970s and '80s cars, trucks and caravans by GM, VW, AMC, Buick and Ford. She bought all 10,000 yards of the colourful car fabric with bright checks, stripes, diamonds, chevrons and transformed them into totes, clutches and travel bags. Each of these unique, limited edition bags is labelled with the year and model of car the fabric was designed for. These bags are perfect for everyday use. You look cool, and improve your eco credentials as it's made from recycled fabric.

Kim White

METRO WORLD NEWS

TIME TO BUTT OUT WHEN YOU BUCKLE UP

If you're a parent who smokes, you know it can be hard to resist lighting up in the car.

But it exposes your kids to the risk of serious childhood illnesses. Even on short trips. Even with the windows rolled down. **Campaign for a Smoke-free Ride is asking parents across Ontario to protect their kids by not smoking in the car.** It may not be easy. But your kids will thank you for it.

Call 1-888-344-LUNG (5864) for more information, or visit **smokefreeride.ca**

THE LUNG ASSOCIATION™ Ontario CAMPAIGN FOR A SMOKE-FREE RIDE

There's an old adage, "We live what we learn" that has always resonated with me as an adult, even more so with the insights of parenthood. Now as chair of the Ontario Lung Association, I find it offers even greater relevance.

For the last couple of months we have been working with our community partners across the province to help parents who smoke in their family vehicle understand the health risks to their children. Quite simply, there is no safe way to smoke in the car.

Because their bodies are still developing, children are especially vulnerable to the poisons of second-hand smoke. Combine this with the fact that concentrations of second-hand smoke are more intense in the enclosed space of a vehicle and the risk increases substantially.

Now in Ontario, new legislation banning smoking vehicles when children under the age of 16 are passengers is effective January 21, 2009. The Ontario Lung Association applauds the Government of Ontario for taking this important step towards protecting our children.

For parents, your reasons for not smoking in your car are as close as your back seat.

Dean Karakasis
Chair, Ontario Lung Association

When you can't breathe, nothing else matters

Dean Karakasis became chair of the Ontario Lung Association September 2008. He has been a long-serving volunteer of the lung health organization, serving as a Board Director for 14 years. Dean is currently executive director of BOMA Ottawa. During his 20-year career, Dean has been a leader in developing governance models, and marketing, partnership and communication programs for both corporate and non-profit organizations.

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#Limited time lease offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Lease example based on 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £1.9% lease APR for 48 months. Monthly payment is $178 with $2,664.66 down payment or equivalent trade, $1,310 freight and PDI, first monthly payment and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $12,665.79. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ‡MSRP is $26,490 for a new 2009 Element LX, model YH1839E. $1,560 freight and PDI, license, insurance, registration and taxes are extra. MSRP of 2009 Element SC, model YH1899E shown is $31,190. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ¥Cash purchase incentive offers will vary from model to model. $7,000 cash purchase incentive available on new 2009 Element SC 2WD, model YH1899E / 2009 Element EX 4WD, model YH2879EX. #/£/¥Offers valid from January 6th, 2009 through January 31st, 2009 at participating Honda retailers. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Honda retailer for full details. NHL and the NHL Shield are registered trademarks of the National Hockey League. ©NHL 2008. All rights reserved.

Beat winter freeze-ups

Treacherous road conditions are not the only things that add to a driver's woes during winter. When temperatures dip well below the freezing level, as they have across Canada in the last few weeks, car trouble might hit you even before you take to the road. Vehicle freeze-ups are quite common during the peak of winter, especially in older cars. CAA South Central Ontario offers the following tips to protect your vehicle against winter freeze-ups.

Following some simple tips can help you prevent vehicle freeze-ups during winter.

- Starting your car takes energy so ensure all vehicle accessories are turned off such as the heater, defroster, lights, wipers and radio.
- Turn the ignition to the start position and crank the engine for no more than five to 10 seconds. Do not pump the accelerator.
- If the car doesn't start in 10 seconds, return key to off position. Wait 30 seconds between attempts to prevent possible damage and try again. If the car refuses to start, there may be a battery or mechanical trouble. Call CAA or an auto mechanic if needed.
- You really only need to warm up the car for one to two minutes. Avoid hard acceleration in the first few minutes of start-up to give a chance for fluids to lubricate through the engine. Unnecessary idling wastes gasoline and increases pollution.
- For safety reasons, never warm a car in a garage whether closed or open. Carbon monoxide exhaust fumes could be lethal.
- If you have an automatic car starter, be extra cautious that you don't accidentally activate it when your car is parked in the garage.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full, otherwise ice crystals can form and freeze your gas line.
- Park your car where the sun will hit in the morning to help the snow and frost or inside a garage where it's warmer.
- To protect your car from freeze-up change to a winter-grade oil and gasoline. Consult your owner's manual. It contains everything you need to know about starting your make of vehicle in the winter.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Obama rides 'the beast'

U.S President Barack Obama rode to the inauguration ceremony yesterday in a handcrafted, armoured Cadillac DTS (DeVille Touring Sedan) with four-wheel-drive.

Called "the beast" by its secret service handlers, the GM model is believed to weigh between seven and eight tons. The body is reportedly sheathed in military-grade armor as much as eight inches thick on the doors.

The first "official" presidential limousine was a 1939 Lincoln V12 convertible used by FDR (and subsequently Harry Truman). In 1989 George Bush Sr. made use of a 1989 Lincoln Town, the last president to ride in a Lincoln.

United States Presidential **Inauguration**

Since then Cadillacs have ruled the roost, first with the 1993 Fleetwood Brougham of Bill Clinton. It was ultimately replaced in 2001 with the Cadillac DeVille of George W. Bush and finally "the beast" in 2006.

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New Lincoln display
More than 60 objects from U.S. President Abraham Lincoln's life are now on display at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. The exhibit was planned for the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth in February; see americanhistory.si.edu. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel

Take off

British Airways has launched its popular London for Free promotion, offering two nights' free hotel accommodation in London. World Traveller economy roundtrip airfares begin at $328 between Toronto and London. Prices are available for sale through Thurs., Jan 29 at midnight EST. Travel is valid from Jan. 27 through April 1, 2009. For further restrictions and details, visit ba.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Tracing the long road to equality

Philadelphia Black History exhibit is among the largest ever

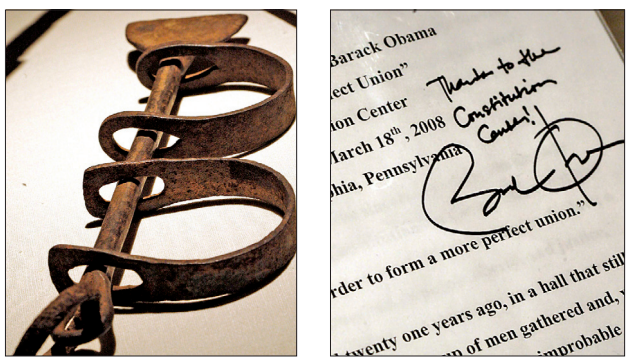
United States
Presidential
Inauguration

They are scarred with uncountable sorrows, these Doors of No Return, which stood as the portals to a slave castle built by British colonizers in what is now Ghana. Inside, 1,500 people at a time awaited the horrific Middle Passage and a life of bondage across the Atlantic.

MATT ROURK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The entrance to the new black history exhibit, AmericaIAm: The African-American Imprint at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. The exhibit is scheduled to run through May 3.

Dr. Cornel West, right, and television personality Tavis Smiley view a movie in a replica of a church at the new black history exhibit, AmericaIAm: The African-American Imprint.



MATT ROURK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Artifacts in the exhibit include, left, a set of circa 1700s Middle Passage Shackles used on slave ships and right, President Obama's speech on the great American conundrum of race.

On the web
- americaiam.org

Now, the doors have launched a new black history exhibit, one of the largest ever. As you walk through the doors and pass hundreds of artifacts — solemn, sad or joyous representations of the past — the momentous chapter that's now unfolding keeps intruding.

President Barack Obama's personal copy of his speech on the great American conundrum of race is here, a simple sheaf of paper marking a milestone in his groundbreaking campaign. Video from yesterday's presidential swearing-in will be incorporated into an already stirring video installation.

The multimillion-dollar exhibit, AmericaIAm: The African-American Imprint, didn't begin with any expectation of such a powerful ending. Two years ago, when the television personality Tavis Smiley conceived the idea for a museum show about blacks' contributions to the U.S., an African-American president was all but inconceivable.

Yet the impossible has now arrived. How did this, how could this happen? Walking through, you realize AmericaIAm can help explain.

More than 11 million Africans were stolen from their motherland in the slave trade. Most of the survivors landed in South America and the Caribbean. About 500,000 were taken to America, starting in the early 1600s, and they became the economic engine of the world's richest nation.

"We know the narrative of Ellis Island and the immigrants coming to New York," Smiley says. "But there's another story."

That story begins at the Doors of No Return. They feel like a last signpost, pointing back to an invisible past. Who were those people who passed through? How did they feel at this precipice of the unknown?

"We must always remember that, and try to feel the trauma," says James Early, director of Cultural Heritage Policy at the Smithsonian Institution. "But we can't get stuck there. The Doors of No Return are really a way of measuring our progress."

Obama's ancestors were not slaves; his black Kenyan father met his white Kansan mother in Hawaii. But the doors show a stronger connection between Obama, Africa and America than any genealogical chart.

Beyond the doors lie grim relics: Leg shackles and neck chains; census forms counting blacks as three-fifths of a person; a cotton gin; a matching set of silver ladies' brush, comb, mirror, and small whip.

Then the despair lifts: "On the 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free..."

The document is a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation. It bears the actual signature of Abraham Lincoln.

Moving on through the exhibit, which will travel to 10 cities over four years, you come upon a plain ballot box, 150 years old, from Franklin County, Ohio. Its power is in its promise. "Voting is for all Americans an index of existence," Early says. "It's a physical expression that says, 'I am.'"

The ballot also frames a century of black struggle after the Civil War. This period is presented in the exhibit through artifacts that can be more frightening than slave whips or chains. A full Ku Klux Klan robe hangs high inside a glass case. With it are carved wooden figurines, about 10 centimetres tall, perhaps children's toys, depicting tiny hooded Klansmen. This was one of the hardest parts of the exhibit to assemble, according to AmericaIAm's executive producer, John Fleming.

"During slavery, at least blacks were valuable property, so they were somewhat protected," he says. "But during Jim Crow, you could just be attacked or beaten or even killed at any time." That very brutality, in time, would help destroy legalized racism in America.

You move on. Behind the grey jail bars are a bench, a key and a stool. The bench is where Martin Luther King sat before an Alabama judge. The key locked him into solitary confinement. The stool is where he composed the Letter from a Birmingham Jail.

The transformation accelerates when you continue past King's cell into the era of black stardom. Muhammad Ali's robe from the Rumble in the Jungle. Ray Charles' tuxedo and sunglasses. A uniform Michael Jordan sweated in while winning a championship. Dozens more examples of game-changing genius, ability and accomplishment. The dread and degradation are gone now, ushered off stage by advancing equality.

"What we show is that Africa and Europe came together to create a new nation and a new culture that never existed before," says Fleming. Africa and Europe — the direct lineage of Barack Obama.

How could he not end the exhibit? His image closes a thrilling video presentation. And Obama's personal copy of his speech on race is the final artifact of the show.

After the speech was done, it was left behind on the podium, along with a sense that there is much more of this story to be written. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Improv summit

The Flies Improvised Music Festival has been described as "a summit meeting" for some of the most creative improvisers from Canada and around the world. The annual festival will be held Feb. 5-7 at Vancouver's historic Ironworks facility, east of Gastown. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Andorra's great for winter fun

Large ski area, affordable prices are ideal for families on a budget

CÉLIA PEDROSO
Metro World News

Children play at a wintersports kindergarten, Jardin de Niev, in Andorra.

Pyrenees country is an attractive alternative to more traditional winter destinations, partly because prices are generally more affordable than elsewhere in Europe. The small principality of Andorra has the biggest ski area in the Iberian Peninsula.

The small principality of Andorra, sandwiched between France and Spain high in the Pyrenees mountains, is ideal for a family winter vacation.

Not only does it have the biggest ski area in the Iberian Peninsula, with good snow and sunny weather, but because it's a tax haven, it also has great shopping — items like cameras and perfumes are particularly good deals.

Pyrenees country is an attractive alternative to more traditional winter destinations.

Prices are generally more affordable than most other European ski destinations and besides the snow and shopping, there is also the local gastronomy, with influences from both France and Spain's Catalonia region, as well as bathhouses and spas.

For ski and snowboard fans, Andorra has two distinct areas: Grand Valira, which offers 200 kilometres of slopes, one of which borders France; and Vallnord, with 90 kilometres of runs.

Pas de la Casa, close to the French border at Grand Valira, is one of the most popular resorts in Andorra. Because of its altitude it normally offers consistently good conditions for skiing.

Last year it celebrated its 50th anniversary. Its massive growth includes a link with the Porte des Neiges skiing area of France. The many shops, restaurants, ski-out hotels, and buzzing nightlife make this purpose-built resort a favourite with the 20-something crowd.

If you're looking for a quieter atmosphere you should try Grau Roig, a tiny resort that contrasts with the concrete-block architecture of many of the other Andorra resorts. The chic Hotel Grau Roig (hotelgrauroig.com) is right next to the slopes, and there is little else here — this is the only resort with no residential core, a decision apparently made because of the area's overwhelming natural beauty.

Not very far from Pas de la Casa, it's ideal for skiers and boarders making their first tracks in the snow, with large trails for beginners and a Mickey Snow Club circuit for children.

El Tarter-Soldeu has the best accommodation for those who want to sleep near the slopes and enjoy a laid-back aprés-ski experience, without the fuss and the rowdy crowds of Pas de la Casa.

The Sport resort offers three hotels with different prices: The Hermitage, the Village and the Sport Hotel, whose clients have direct access to the Sport Wellness Mountain Spa, a huge five-floor spa with heated pools, one of which is outside, overlooking the slopes (More details at sporthotels.ad).

Away from the slopes, there is plenty to explore. Legend says that the principality of Andorra was established by Emperor Charlemagne in 805 as appreciation for the help of its inhabitants in the fight against the Saracens. A monument to his image in Canillo village is a reminder of Andorra's many centuries of history.

The San Joan de Caselles Church in the same village was built in the 11th century and bears witness to the importance the Romanesque period in these mountains. In this region you'll also find the Meritxell Sanctuary, dedicated to Andorra's patron saint and rebuilt in the 1970s by Catalan architect Ricardo Bofill.

Up above at the Canillo ski station there is one of the most impressive restaurants in Andorra, the Roc de les Bruixes. At night the atmosphere is fantastic and accessing it — by cable car and with blankets — is a very special experience.

The fusion cuisine takes advantage of the best flavours of France and the Pyrenees, with a modern touch.

Finally, a visit to the principality is not complete without descending to the capital, Andorra la Vella, where you can find the biggest shops and warehouses with very competitive prices.

Need to know

- Capital: Andorra la Vella
Language: French and Spanish
- Population: 75,000
- Currency: euro
- How to get there: Daily buses link Barcelona airport to Andorra.
- Details at skiandorra.ad.

U.S. airlines' baggage handling dips in November

U.S. airlines' on-time performance, baggage handling and domestic cancellation rates were not as good in November compared to the previous month, but still improved over a year earlier, the U.S. Transportation Department has said. The agency also said it received fewer complaints about airline service. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cheap cruises make waves

'It is the year of the deal'

It's wave season, the time of year when travellers typically book the most cruises. And there's good news for cruise-loving consumers: Discounts abound, more than a dozen new ships are being introduced this year, and booking windows are shrinking, which means you don't have to plan quite so far ahead.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ROYAL CARIBBEAN

This computer illustration shows a rendering of a sunning area on the future Royal Caribbean cruise liner named the "Oasis of the Seas" that is currently being built in Finland.

As a result, some companies are seeing a surge in cruise bookings. Princess Cruises reported its biggest booking day ever Jan. 12, with volume up 17 per cent over the best previous day. Expedia CruiseShipCenters had an 18 per cent increase in cruise sales in 2008, and bookings made this year are already ahead of last January by 14 per cent.

Consumers "cannot pass up a deal," said Heidi Allison-Shane of CruiseCompete.com, which has also experienced an upswing in bookings since Jan. 1. She estimated that prices for cruises are down 15 to 20 per cent.

"It is the year of the deal," agreed Carolyn Spencer Brown, editor of CruiseCritic.com.

"Companies with big resort ships to fill find that consumers are not booking as far ahead as normal," said Douglas Ward, author of the Berlitz "Complete Guide to Cruising & Cruise Ships" and Insight Guides' "Cruising: All Questions Answered." "But, booking late means less choice of cabin types and location to choose from. Cruise lines, therefore, are offering greater discounts and incentives to book ahead."

Fuel supplements, which some cruise companies added last year to their fares as the price of oil surged, have also been dropped. But at least one line added a small fee for something that used to be free. Royal Caribbean now charges US $3.95 for room service orders between midnight and 5 a.m.

In a Jan. 15 report on the finances of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. and Carnival Corp., Goldman Sachs analyst Steven Kent predicted that cruise prices will keep dropping, along with onboard spending.

The low prices are the result of "deteriorating" consumer demand, "massive supply" of cruises hitting the market, and cruise operators' "desire to fill these ships at any price," according to Kent.

Despite that gloomy assessment of the industry, the Cruise Lines International Association gave its usual rosy outlook at its annual January press conference in New York.

CLIA, which represents 23 cruise lines and 97 per cent of the North American market, reported 13.2 million people taking cruises in 2008, up from 12.56 million in 2007 and 9.53 million in 2003. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Short trips, late bookings current trend

Seeking a getaway despite the downturn, Olivia Gonzalez called her travel agent with an agenda.

"I said, what kind of deals do you have?" said the Miami resident, who is in her 60s, standing outside the Port of Miami. What she found was a six-day, five-night cruise through the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos for US $299 a person.

That was all the convincing Gonzalez and thousands of other passengers have needed lately to set sail. Though vacations are disposable when money gets tight, the cruise industry has kept ships full with deep discounts and some itinerary changes to shorter, cheaper voyages. Norwegian Cruise Line is sailing three-and four-day swings for the first time since 2004. Carnival Corp. is offering free state room upgrades and more Caribbean choices — a quick skip from the Miami port — in 2009 to accommodate demand.

"Consumers ar looking for more value for their vacation dollar," said Howard Frank, Carnival's chief operating officer, on a recent conference call with analysts. "And our shorter, less expensive Caribbean cruise products are performing much better than our premium and luxury, longer cruise products. So we are seeing a consumer trade-down to value."

"People are deferring their purchases to the last minute."
Cruise Lines International Association's Bob Sharak

The major cruise lines are also seeing vacationers wait longer to commit. Before the downturn, bookings averaged about six months in advance, maybe eight months for luxury trips, said Bob Sharak, executive director of the Cruise Lines International Association.

"People are deferring their purchases to the last minute," he said. "They're booking, but it causes the operators some degree of agitation, because it takes longer to put that sailing on the books.

"I don't think that's something unique to our cruise business right now. I think all travel is like that."

Carnival is offering three-and four- day trips to Mexico and the Bahamas starting at $209 for the lowest-level rooms at the last minute, a nearly 50 per cent discount in some cases. A four-day Baja California, Mexico cruise sailing in February and now selling at that rate would cost $399 later, while a three-day Bahamas vacation leaving Jan. 23 is available for $219 instead of $349. Norwegian's short Bahamas cruises were starting at $229 through mid-April. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New ships

Oasis of the Seas

• Among the new vessels getting attention this year is Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas, which is scheduled to arrive in Fort Lauderdale in December. "It's not a cruise ship, it's a feat of engineering and creativity," said Spencer Brown. "It's an amazing, creative, fabulous ship that will get the lion's share of attention in the next year." Oasis of the Seas features include a boardwalk with carnival games and the first-ever at-sea carousel; a zip-line suspended nine decks above the boardwalk; a mini-Central Park with real grass and trees; an AquaTheater with diving and other performances; and a moving bar that allows guests to have a cocktail while the slowly descend three decks. The ship will be the largest cruise ship yet, accommodating 5,400 guests.

The Seabourn Odyssey

• The Seabourn Odyssey, which launches in June, will accommodate 450 guests, and 90 per cent of its 225 suites will offer verandahs. It will also host Seabourn's first world cruise, a 108-day trip departing January 2010 from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., with a 42-port itinerary in 26 countries. Seabourn is offering $1,000 off early bookings on Odyssey.

Other new ships

• Other new CLIA ships coming onto the market in 2008 include Carnival Cruise Lines' Carnival Dream, Celebrity's Celebrity Equinox, MSC Cruises' MSC Splendida, Costa Cruises' Costa Luminosa and Costa Pacifica, Pearl Seas' Pearl Mist and Seabourn Cruise Lines' Seabourn Odyssey. Newly refurbished ships making their debut include Regent Seven Seas Cruises' Seven Seas Voyager and Seven Seas Mariner, which have just completed a $40 million overhaul. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Under 25? Enter free at French national museums

French President Nicolas Sarkozy says the country's national museums and monuments will soon stop charging ad mission to visitors under 25 as of April 4. French national museums include Paris' Louvre and the Musee d'Orsay. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

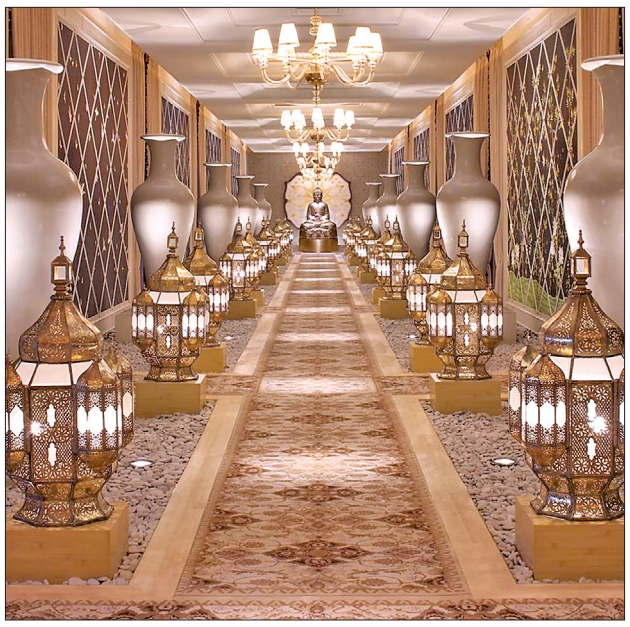
Sussing out the Strip's new player

Encore at Wynn Las Vegas is a boutique hotel on a very grand scale

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada

There's a new player in the spa destination known as Las Vegas. The desert city, famed for gaming, glitzy shows, designer shopping and celebrity chefs, is also home to the largest concentration of luxury spas anywhere on the planet — and the newest is the Spa at Encore.

Opened just prior to Christmas, the most recent addition to the Wynn family — Encore at Wynn Las Vegas — is connected to the original Wynn by a sunlit esplanade lined with upscale shops.



ANNE DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

The spa treatment hall inside Encore at Wynn Las Vegas, left; and the adjoining Wazuzu restaurant with its Swarovski crystal dragon.

By all accounts, it's a very luxurious property with a different feel than most mega Vegas hotels. Think boutique hotel on a very grand scale.

Impeccable design, original works of art, meticulous attention to detail, compact public areas, elevators close to the front entrance, a concierge desk and a small-hotel-level-of-service (there are roughly three employees for every guest) are a few of the elements that give this 2,000-room property its sense of intimacy.

The Asian-inspired spa has that same boutique feel. Even though with its 50-plus treatment rooms and suites it's among the largest, things like a collection of small lockers rooms and various lounge spaces help give it an up, close and personal feel.

The menu offers the usual treatments: Facials, body scrubs and wraps, massages, Ayurveda services and mani/pedis.

The heart of the spa is a beautiful Wet Area with hot and cold pools, heated marble chaises and waterfall showers. Perhaps the most opulent space in the entire hotel is the spa floor lounge — a study in gold and creams and seductively rich with fabrics and furnishings.

It caters to guests using the spa, the salon, the gym, the spa boutique, the juice bar or those waiting to take a fitness class. Guests (both in-house and from other hotels) who don't wish to book a spa treatment can still enjoy the spa floor facilities with a day pass ($30 US).

It's not just the spa facilities that exude a feeling of luxury. Right from the resort's pretty porte-cochère, which protects arriving guests from the desert sun, there is a prevailing feeling of elegance, Old-World sophistication and intimacy.

On the web

- encorelasvegas.com

But it's not all serious stuff. Amidst the luxury there is also a sense of whimsy. Note, for instance, the lime-coloured leather chairs in the reception area: The model for the chair's legs was one of Wynn's beloved dogs. In Wazuzu, one of five upscale restaurants, an 8.2 metre Swarovski crystal dragon crawls across a tangerine-coloured wall as patrons dine on Asian-inspired dishes. Another restaurant, aptly called Switch, gives new meaning to the concept of "dinner theatre." Here, it is the decor, music and lighting that "perform" every 20 minutes.

Bringing the outdoors indoors is another design orchestration that affords the Encore a point of distinction.

In contrast to the traditional Vegas protocol of never letting gamers know the time of day, Encore has daylight streaming into the intimate, European-style casino. And, the outdoor pool and terrace is a dice roll away from the Blackjack tables.

A horticultural division, with a staff of 70 and a budget of over $1 million a year, helps turn the interior into a garden setting with flowers from around the world delivered on a daily basis. The imports are used to create theatrical floral showpieces that cause guests to give a second look.

Is it all good? Like everything, it depends on who you ask. Some Vegas veterans say they like the look and feel and constant clatter of the traditional mega casino, and not knowing if it's day or night. But my guess is that Encore's luxury boutique feel will be a big draw for the more upscale traveller.

Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer and editor of traveltowellness.com.

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Empty nest
Just five months after the Beijing Olympics, the Bird's Nest is a cavernous museum searching for a new purpose. The iconic National Stadium drew acclaim for its daring design, an engineering marvel that borders on sculpture. Now it draws about 10,000 tourists a day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Museum traces our history through war

Even before visitors walk into the lobby of the Canadian War Museum, they recognize they are entering a building like no other.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS
A woman walks through a display of the battlefield at Passchendale as she tours the War Museum in Ottawa.

With its grass-covered roof and facade jutting out toward Parliament Hill like the bow of a great ship, the concrete building overlooking the Ottawa River is striking.

Inside, the lobby is open and expansive, but as visitors enter the galleries, there is something constrictive about the space.

The architect, Raymond Moriyama, wanted to take people out of their comfort zone. The imposing grey walls seem cold and barren.

With Canada's involvement in Afghanistan, the stories told here have had more resonance. An extended 14-month exhibition on Afghanistan, now touring Canada, attracted 190,000 visitors before wrapping up in April 2008 — exceeding the initial 12-month projection of 120,000 in just seven months.

More than 300 attended the opening of the travelling exhibit at the Rooms in St. John's, N.L., earlier this month. The war museum plans to bring the show to Victoria, Calgary, Toronto and other cities through 2011.

Since reopening in a new building in May 2005, the museum has become a beacon for tourists and history buffs alike. Visitors have more than quadrupled to 450,000 a year.

The museum traces Canada's history through conflict. Visitors can learn about early Iroquois fortifications, the Seven Years' War and the War of 1812. There are also permanent displays on the two world wars, Korea and Canada's blue-helmeted peacekeeping missions in far-flung regions of the world, along with an extensive collection of war art.

Dioramas, interactive displays and amazing artifacts — like Adolf Hitler's Mercedes, or the torn, bloodstained coat of French Capt. Francois Dezery, shot at the Battle of Chateauguay in 1813 — bring the installations to life.

Besides Afghanistan, special exhibitions have featured the art of war propaganda, photographic collections and a look at wartime life at home.

Public lectures and other events ensure the museum is a venue for the informed discussion of military affairs, past and present.

"We're not pro-war, we're not antiwar," said spokesman Pierre Leduc.

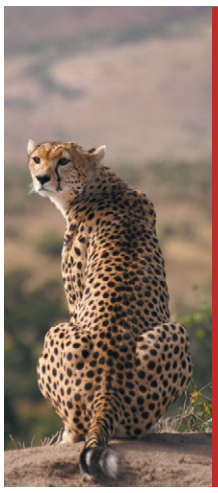
The current special exhibition, Trench Life: A Survival Guide, focuses on some of the 65,000 Canadian soldiers who experienced the misery of First World War battlefields, showing their kit, their trench art, their letters home.

Theatre, poetry, newspapers, cartoons, songs and art helped soldiers find meaning in their war experience and cope with the strain of combat. Trench art included mugs crafted from shell casings, and all manner of trinkets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go ...

- Trench Life: A Survival Guide runs until April 13 at The Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.
- Details at warmuseum.ca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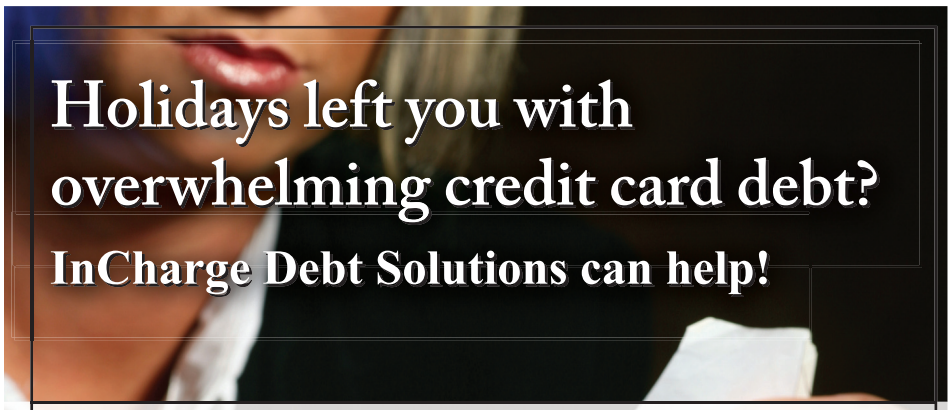

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Cover up

The Caribbean island of Grenada has recently began enforcing a law banning bathing suits away from the beach. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHN MOORE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This file photo shows some of the mysterious figures and geometric shapes of the Nazca Lines near Nazca in southern Peru.

Heavy rains damage Nazca lines

An archeologist says heavy rains have damaged part of Peru's famed Nazca lines. The rains deposited desert clay and sand on top of three fingers of a geoglyph shaped like a pair of hands.

Mario Olaechea, an archeologist with Peru's National Culture Institute, says water from the unusually heavy rains has washed off the nearby Pan-American highway and pushed sand and clay onto part of the site.

The damage is minor, and the institute plans to clear the material and restore the glyph.

Nazca's dry and windless climate has preserved the mysterious lines since they were etched into the desert sand by indigenous groups who cleared away rocks and small pebbles to form the shape of animals and other figures.

The lines are too large to be appreciated from the ground, but rather can only be seen from the air, although they were drawn in the sand between 100 B.C. and 700 A.D. by the Nazca Indians, long before airplanes and hot-air balloons existed.

Archeologists have warned the lines — one of Peru's top tourist destinations — are vulnerable to flooding, but Olaechea said it was the first known instance of rain damage.

The lines were added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list in 1994.

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Groundhog festival
Wiarton, Ont.'s annual winter groundhog festival will be held from Jan. 29 to Feb. 2.; see wiarton-willie.org for details. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. cities vie for Poe legacy

Pick a major U.S. East Coast city at random and you're likely to find a 200th birthday celebration this year for Edgar Allan Poe.

The peripatetic Poe — author of The Raven, The Tell-Tale Heart and other poems and tales of the macabre — was born in Boston on Jan. 19, 1809. He was raised largely in Richmond, Va. As an adult, he migrated between Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York.

Befitting his difficulty establishing roots, Poe has been feted at birthday parties in those five cities this month.

Events will continue throughout the year — including new museum exhibits, performances and readings of Poe's work, academic conferences and, in Baltimore, a re-enactment of his funeral that is sure to draw more mourners than the hasty burial itself.

The push to honour Poe dovetails with an escalating debate about the places that were most important to the author's life and work. Fans of Poe, then, can be forgiven if they feel the need to sit and ponder, weak and weary, where best to pay tribute to the author.

"Every city has its claim to fame with Poe," said Jeff Jerome, curator of the Poe House and Museum in Baltimore.

Baltimore, where Poe died in 1849 under mysterious circumstances, has his grave and a tiny rowhouse he lived in during his mid-20s.

There are also houses in Philadelphia, where Poe wrote some of his best-known stories, and New York, where he enjoyed his greatest literary success. Richmond has the definitive Poe museum.

Boston doesn't have much besides a plaque near his place of birth, but an enthusiastic English professor thinks the city should do more.

For promoting Poe, no city can compete with Baltimore, which named its football team the Ravens in his honour.

It also has the Poe birthday tradition that fascinates the public — each year, a mysterious visitor leaves a half-full bottle of cognac and three red roses at his original gravesite.

In 1875, Poe's remains were moved to a more prominent spot in the same cemetery, Westminster Burying Ground, alongside his aunt, Maria Clemm.

There Poe's bones will stay, despite a tongue-in-cheek plea by Philadelphia-based Poe scholar Edward Pettit to dig up the author's remains and rebury them in the City of Brotherly Love, where he wrote many of his best stories, including The Fall of the House of Usher and The Pit and the Pendulum.

Pettit's immodest proposal, first aired in a 2007 article in the Philadelphia City Paper, was the opening salvo in what he calls the Poe Wars.

"I'm not crazy. I've never thought that the actual body of Poe was going to be moved," Pettit said.

"But that's the metaphor. Philadelphia deserves the bones of Poe in the sense that it deserves to be the standard-bearer of the Poe legacy."

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South Korea's coolest cultural draw

The country's B-Boys are so good they've morphed into a Broadway-style attraction

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JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Left, Korea's Drifterz Crew are three-time winners of the U.K. B-Boy world championships. Right, B-Boyz & Ballerina is a performance showcasing B-Boy culture.

In the land of Samsung and kimchee, there's a cultural phenomenon that's moved out of the underground and into the sights of national tourism marketers.

South Korea is king of B-Boy dance culture, routinely sweeping up international awards for a pursuit that most would more closely associate with the streets of New York City. (It was there, during the 1970s, that a variety of dance styles fused together and became a key part of the burgeoning hip-hop scene — today's B-Boys can trace their roots to that era.)

In the 1980s and 1990s, the movement came to South Korea, where it's been practised and honed. South Korean B-Boys appropriated American moves but improvised their own touches, and now the country boasts about 100 crews who compete in international championships and regularly beat out competitors from the U.S.

The Drifterz Crew, three-time winners of the U.K. B-Boy Championships, say that extreme dedication is the reason Koreans make such great B-Boys. "Koreans practice like it's a science. They break it down and study the parts," explains one crew member.

They're known for their precision and for practising four to six hours a day.

B-Boys — and the occasional B-Girl — are becoming so popular that even the Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) is getting behind them, promoting the movement as a "cultural and unique" attraction for foreign tourists.

The KTO has even set up a "performance tourism marketing strategy" through which tourists can come to see Broadway-style shows starring internationally-acclaimed B-Boys.

Jump, Ballerina Who Loves a B-Boy and Marionette are all examples of non-verbal, multi-media shows that target tourists by transcending language barriers through dance, music and high production values.

Miss Lee, a Utah-raised 24-year-old who recently returned to South Korea to live, work and study, taught herself how to battle by watching American break-dancing videos.

Her signature move is a one-handed hand hop, in which she bounces upside down in a hand-stand-like position.

Miss Lee is also performer in the stage show B-Boys and Ballerina, best described as Stomp-meets-West-Side-Story with a hip-hop twist: Boy meets girl, they fall in love, conflict ensues. He's from the wrong side of the tracks, and the matter can be settled only one way — with a dance-off. The girls don Sandra Dee-style skintight black pants and true love prevails over social class.

The pounding music, provocative costumes and skilled choreography make for an impressive stage show.

Tourists leave the theatre bursting with energy, excitement and an earnest desire to take B-Boy dance lessons themselves.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8 p.m. EST on OLN; juliadimon.com.

Korean B-Boys

- For more information on performances of B-Boyz & Ballerina, visit bisabal.co.kr.
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Don't miss Curtain Call, Metro's exclusive feature series in the Workology section. In the realm of death there are some interesting, lucrative and mysterious career opportunities; we will be digging up the stories for you, so check for Workology on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Metronews.ca/work as well.

Workology

Down with tuition

According to a recent poll conducted for the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Canadian Federation of Students, nearly 60 per cent of Canadians believe tuition fees should be eliminated over time.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

How much are you worth?

Cutain Call

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

If you think human life is priceless, you might be shocked to learn there are people whose job it is to put a price on it.

Chartered business valuators (often referred to simply as valuators) are the accounting minds responsible for figuring out the value of things that most people consider impossible to value and human life is just one dramatic example. While many valuations deal with traditional cases involving corporate holdings and assets, anything with a value can be valuated.

Remember baseball player Alex Rodriguez's record-breaking 10-year, $252-million-dollar contract with the Texas Rangers? Valuators' calculations were instrumental in determining that breathtaking figure.

Dave Vert, a retired valuator who now teaches accounting at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, has dealt with many wrongful death cases in the past and says neutrality and an impassive approach are critical to a valuator's work.

"Our job is to be dispassionate and objective. It's not that we're callous, it's not that we don't care, or that we pursue our work in an uncaring way, but in the end we have to allow our professional judgment and the facts speak. The only time our work is going to be valued and seen as credible is if it comes from that dispassionate, objective place."

"Usually when there's money involved, that tends to bring out not the best in people."
Michael Bowie

Vert once worked on a case where a wealthy head of a large manufacturing empire was killed, along with his son, in a plane crash. The son's death left behind a wife and newborn child who had been wholly dependent on his income. A police investigation found the crash had been wholly the fault of pilot error by the father. The young widow sued the executive father's estate and Vert was brought in with a team of valuators to assess potential compensation.

The main debate centred on just how much the young son could have been expected to earn — as a recent engineering graduate, his income could be estimated at a much lower rate than if his father had instead been grooming him to take over the family business. In the end, Vert's team calculated several possible scenarios and both sides agreed to a settlement: $2 million to the young widow as spousal compensation and $100,000 to the young child, to be held in trust until the age of 18.

Michael Bowie, a partner at accounting firm KPMG LLP in Vancouver, agrees that the process of valuation is complex, especially because it is so speculative in nature, and speculation often leads to disagreement.

"Valuations can be subjective. They are not a hard and fast thing. The focus of a valuation is on what the future would be, so what you do is assess future possibilities and put a probability on them. Usually when there's money involved, that tends to bring out not the best in people," Bowie said.

For more of the Curtain Call exclusive series check the Workology section Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays or stop by Metronews.ca/work

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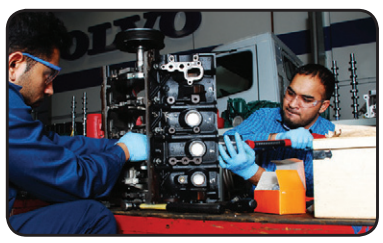

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Trend in Canadian faculty delaying retirement

A number of institutions across Canada are reporting more and more faculty postponing retirement. For example, in 2007 and 2008, just six University of Western Ontario professors retired out of an estimated annual cohort of 30 to 40 faculty members turning 65. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Speaking to the world

JOSEPHINE LIM
for Metro Canada

Bernard Seif practices Chinese medicine in Brodheadsville, Penn., and wanted to help Chinese people, especially the poor. He had one major problem, he couldn't speak Mandarin and they couldn't speak English.

Now, after a year of learning Mandarin through podcasts and Skype conversations, Seif says he can listen pretty well but still needs to work on his speaking.

Not only can he help more people, but he also learned an important transferable skill: Another language — something that's has gained importance in the global economy.

Mandarin is one of the top five most spoken languages in the world. The other four languages include English, Hindi, Spanish and Arabic, reports Ethnologue.com, a site hosted by the Summer Institute of Linguistics International.

But to learn another language isn't easy and study methods range from classes, books, cassette tapes, CDs and podcasts.

Ana Pérez-Leroux, a linguist at the University of Toronto, says the best method of study is one that has both instructed and immersed experience.

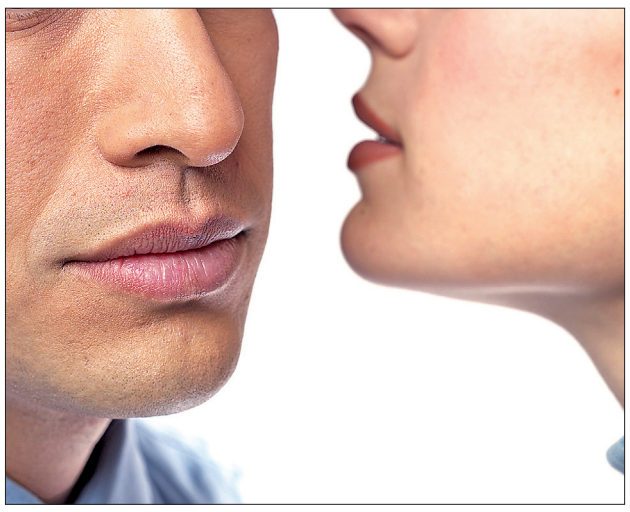
"You need some interaction for the language to work," says Pérez-Leroux. "You can prepare for it, but the actual (back and forth) has to happen."

She says the best way to learn a language is to take lessons for a year and then travel somewhere to put it into context.

Apart from taking lessons, one popular method to learn languages is with Rosetta Stone, a language-learning software in which users listen to a speaker and match the word to a picture, with no translation. It also offers practice in pronunciation where users speak into a microphone and the program tells them if they're right or wrong.

Another way is with the Pimsleur method. This is an audio-based system where listeners repeat phrases and sentences from a recording.

Both companies websites' say their approach follows how people normally first learn a language.



A good way to learn another language is to take lessons for a year and then travel somewhere to put it into context.

But Pérez-Leroux doesn't buy it. She says no one has really succeeded with the do-it-yourself methods to learn language.

Benjamin Bullis, a network consultant in Chicago, wanted to learn Mandarin to teach the three girls his family adopted from China.

He tried many other methods for about six months before settling on melnyks.com, a site run by Serge Melnyk in Vancouver which offers podcasts, transcripts and worksheets for lessons, and private Skype lessons.

"Well, to me it's all about the repetitiveness, always listening to the lessons over and over," says Bullis. "I drive a lot, sometimes three hours a day, so I'll usually listen to the podcasts."

He's taken lessons with Melnyk since last year and says he's now in between beginner and intermediate.

"I think it just comes down to how I learn and I've always been a self-learner." says Bullis.

The only advice he can offer others looking to learn another language is to stick with it.

"That's always a big one," says Bullis. "You get people who are all excited for only a month."

Tips

Serge Melnyk from Vancouver decided to learn Mandarin after becoming interested in kung fu and martial arts at the age of 15. After self-teaching himself from books for about two to three years, he now teaches it online through podcasts on melnyk.com. He is of Ukrainian descent and can speak seven languages: Ukrainian, French, Russian, Mandarin, some Korean, German, and English. He offers some tips on how to learn another language from a pod cast:

- Have some time. Set aside a chunk of time in your schedule to study.
- Find a good course. Look for one that is systematic and where all the lessons are connected.
- Prepare yourself mentally. Anybody can learn it if they have determination.
- Listen to the text and see the text. All inputs are important and being able to see the text helps.
- Write the text. Every time they hear a new word, write it out.
- Speak the text.
- Practice it somewhere. Find speakers in the area or go to a restaurant.
- Repeat. Repetition is important, go back from time to time.
- Be determined. In the beginning it's difficult.

JOSEPHINE LIM/
FOR METRO CANADA

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McMaster reopens renovated planetarium

McMaster University held a grand re-opening for the William J. McCallion Planetarium recently. The planetarium had been closed for over a year while undergoing renovations. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Records key to keeping OT pay

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin

dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com

Most of the Canadian workforce is not paid for the minutes or hours that are actually worked. Such dedication may be desirable to employers — but that does not necessarily make it legal.

When Orest Matiowski was hired as a tourism services officer by Lake of the Woods Business Incentive Corporation, a not-for-profit corporation in Kenora, Ont., he was expected to work overtime without any extra pay.

Soon after he was hired, the scope of his job increased and Matiowski began to work longer hours, trading some of his overtime for time off instead. Despite his initial agreement that overtime would be expected, without pay, Matiowski kept track of his overtime hours in a calendar, presumably so that he would have a record of that time.

When Lake of the Woods decided that it could no longer continue Matiowski's position, he was fired. However, since Matiowski was no longer employed, he was unable to take advantage of the significant amount of time off in place of the overtime that he had accumulated and argued that he should instead be paid for those hours. Lake of Woods disagreed. It felt that Matiowski knew that he would not be paid for any of the extra hours he worked when he was hired and that, as a not-for-profit organization, it couldn't afford to pay him overtime, which is why it had agreed to provide him with time off instead of pay.

Believing that Lake of the Woods had taken advantage of his generosity, Matiowski filed a lawsuit arguing that he had worked 3,300 hours of overtime without pay, amounting to around $65,000 of unpaid work.

In spite of Matiowski's agreement to waive the payment for any overtime he worked, an Ontario judge recently concluded that the provincial employment standards legislation must prevail. Under the legislation, employers and employees can agree to trade overtime pay for paid time off from work. But, where an employee is dismissed before being able to use up the banked overtime hours, the employer must then pay out the difference.

However, unlike the provincial Ministry, who place the burden of defending overtime claims on the employer, in a court action Matiowski was required to prove the details of his claim. Even though he was entitled to pay for the accumulated time off, he was unable to accurately quantify the amount that he was owed, according to the judge.

Employees should maintain a running journal showing the actual hours worked, though this may not be enough to prove overtime.

Because of the lack of any reliable evidence proving how many extra hours he had worked, Matiowski was awarded a single dollar, which the court found was a "declaration" that he was correct in his claim. It was unable to award him any further payments without being able to quantify his overtime hours.

Whether it's a tacit recognition of the prevalence of unpaid overtime or a recognition that legal standards cannot be overlooked, even in difficult economic times, the courts have continued to take a common sense approach to overtime claims. This case is instructive for the following reasons:

• Courts cannot be asked to speculate how much overtime has actually been worked. I instruct clients to maintain a running journal showing the actual hours worked. But even this is insufficient to routinely prove liability. Employees should also preserve dispositive evidence such as e-mails, time sheets or calendars.

• Employers and employees can agree to various arrangements or be subject to company policies, such as banking overtime hours. However, if that agreement provides the employee with less than the minimum provincial employment standards, it is invalid.

• Provincial labour standards officers can also be asked to resolve overtime disputes. Often, this provides a cost-effective alternative to bringing a court action.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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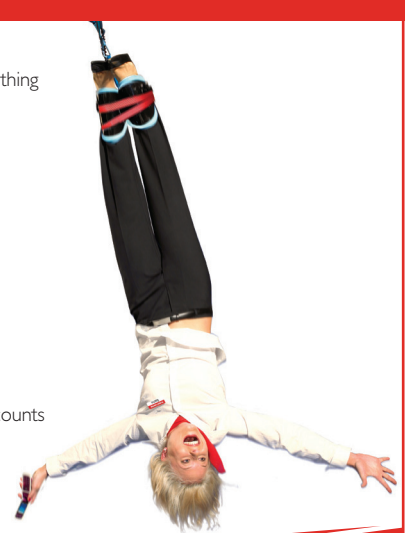


50 BEST EMPLOYERS IN CANADA 2008 REPORT ON BUSINESS

FLIGHT CENTRE Unbeatable

Simmons returns for next Spider-Man
J.K. Simmons, who starred as J. Jonah Jameson, Peter Parker's fiery-tempered editor at the Daily Bugle, has confirmed he will rejoin Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst for the next installment in the Spider-Man franchise. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

Rainy days

Rihanna has topped the U.K. singles chart rundown for 2008, selling almost 1.3 million copies of her song Umbrella, femalefirst.co.uk reports.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Makeover hits and misses

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

If there's any truth to the old adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it," Hollywood sure as heck doesn't heed it. American movie studios are infamous for purchasing pictures that are hailed as masterpieces in their respective homelands and, instead of simply releasing them as is, remake them for western sensibilities.

The latest foreign hit to get the marketable makeover is the blood-freezing 2003 Korean ghost story A Tale of Two Sisters, which is being westernized by directors Thomas and Charles Guard as The Uninvited — it opens in theatres on Friday.

While the merits of this version remain undetermined, the film is in line with Hollywood's near decade long mining of popular Asian thrillers for profit. Sometimes, as in Gore Verbinski's The Ring — a remake of the Japanese hit Ringu — the results are rather good.

Alex (Arielle Kebbel, left) and Anna (Emily Browning, right) are united in their suspicions about their father's new fiancée in the haunting suspense thriller The Uninvited.

More often than not, however, they're dismal white-washed shadows of their former selves; witness the American riffs on One Missed Call or Shutter if you dare.

Not every remake stems from foreign origin, however. In fact the worst contender is unquestionably Gus Van Sant's completely perfunctory, scene-for-scene 1998 stab at Hitchcock's untouchable American thriller Psycho.

Leeching off Joseph Stefano's original screenplay and Hitch's masterful storyboards, Van Sant's redux was a preposterous art house stunt that alienated casual viewers and raised the bile of purists worldwide.

The most compelling remakes are ones driven by filmmakers with defined esthetics. David Cronenberg's operatic rethinking of the beloved '50s B-movie chiller The Fly works because the director chose to simply take the framework of the original and graft his own, very personal sensibilities on to it.

Similarly, Alejandro Amenabar's Spanish psychological drama Open Your Eyes was recast with Tom Cruise in the lead and remade by Cameron Crowe in 1999 as Vanilla Sky to great effect. Crowe's version obeys the mind bending narrative of the original but is saturated with the pop music and cocky dialogue Crowe so adores.

Time will reveal if The Uninvited can stand on its own as a relevant remake but the fact remains that Hollywood is still far too financially frightened to take theatrical chances on foreign product without bankable stars. And if you don't believe me, just wait until JJ Abrams unleashes his upcoming American remake of the recent Swedish vampire masterpiece Let The Right One In later this year. Again … if it aint broke, for heavens sake, you better have a really good reason to fix it.

Rush, Mitchell songs among Obama picks

Mitchell

MUSIC Songs by Joni Mitchell, Oscar Peterson and Rush are among the Canadian tunes that should be on Barack Obama's playlist, according to CBC listeners.

The list was compiled from submissions and votes sent online over the past two weeks and include a range of genres, both official languages, and some of the country's most lauded artists.

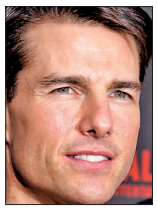
CBC Radio 2 asked listeners to choose 49 songs from north of the 49th parallel that help define our country to U.S. president-elect Barack Obama.

The playlist includes Peterson's civil rights anthem Hymn to Freedom, Glenn Gould's recording of Goldberg Variations and Rush's Closer to the Heart.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

To view the entire list log on to metronews.ca/entertainment

Cruise brings Valkyrie to Berlin



Cruise

MOVIES Tom Cruise said yesterday he felt a huge burden of responsibility to history in bringing the story of one of Germany's few anti-Nazi heroes to the screen.

In Valkyrie, Cruise plays Col. Claus Graf Schenk von Stauffenberg — the aristocratic army officer who was among those executed after a failed attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler in July 1944.

"I think it's the most challenging film I've ever made," he said in Berlin. "The whole time, we carried a huge burden." He added that he wanted "to represent the spirit of the resistance and history in the most accurate way and also ... deliver a piece of entertainment."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Elijah to reprise Hobbit role

Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Billy Boyd and Dominic Monaghan will reprise their roles as Hobbits for the prequel to Lord of the Rings — despite the characters not appearing in J.R.R. Tolkien's novel The Hobbit. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Valkyria game engrossing

One of the most enduring plots throughout our culture has been the triumph of the little guy over seemingly unstoppable forces. From Moses versus the Pharaoh to Luke Skywalker versus Darth Vader, the hero's journey from nobody to hero is related repeatedly.

This screen grab shows a scene from Valkyria Chronicles, where soldiers in an alternate Europe fight off an enemy invasion.

It's a familiar tale in video games as well, starting with Super Mario Bros. and its squat, spunky plumber battling fantastic dangers and rescuing a princess.

The Lord of the Rings may be the ultimate expression of the hero's journey, with a quite literally little guy, Frodo Baggins, triumphant over overwhelming evil. Frodo's adventure, though, almost seems like an afterthought in the latest LOTR game, which focuses on the trilogy's widescreen battles, from Helm's Deep to Mordor. You begin the campaign as an anonymous soldier in one of four classes (warrior, archer, mage or scout), although you also get the chance to take control of heroes like Gandalf, Aragorn and Gimli. It's at the core of the gameplay where ``Conquest'' stumbles, as most of the missions simply involve hacking and slashing your way through hundreds of enemy grunts. There's very little need for strategy or finesse, just relentless button-mashing that gets old fast.

For a far more satisfying journey, check out this original epic from (surprisingly) Sega.

Valkyria Chronicles takes place in an alternate version of 1930s Europe. Welkin is a nice kid who dreams of being a biologist, but he's swept up in combat when his peaceful homeland is invaded by the belligerent Empire.

In each mission, you have to smartly deploy Welkin and his squadmates — scouts, troopers, snipers and so on — and then create havoc among the invaders. There's a good deal of tactical variety between (and sometimes within) missions, shifting from defence to offence, so you never feel like you're repeating scenarios.

Valkyria is unusually pretty for a war strategy game. And the story is compelling, gradually introducing interesting new characters and intriguing fantasy elements. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Valkyria **Chronicles**

Sega, for PlayStation 3
Rating:

The Lord of the **Rings**

Electronic Arts, for Xbox 360, PlayStation 3
Rating:

Healey the big winner at Maple Blues Awards

MUSIC The late Jeff Healey was the big winner at the Maple Blues Awards.

The Canadian blues guitarist and his band won seven out of 17 awards handed out at the Phoenix Concert Theatre on Monday, including best entertainer, electric artist, guitarist and recording of the year for his posthumous album Mess of Blues.

His accompanists — drummer Al Webster, keyboardist Dave Murphy and bassist Alec Fraser — also won their respective instrument categories.

Healey died in March after a battle with cancer that robbed him of his sight when he was a baby.

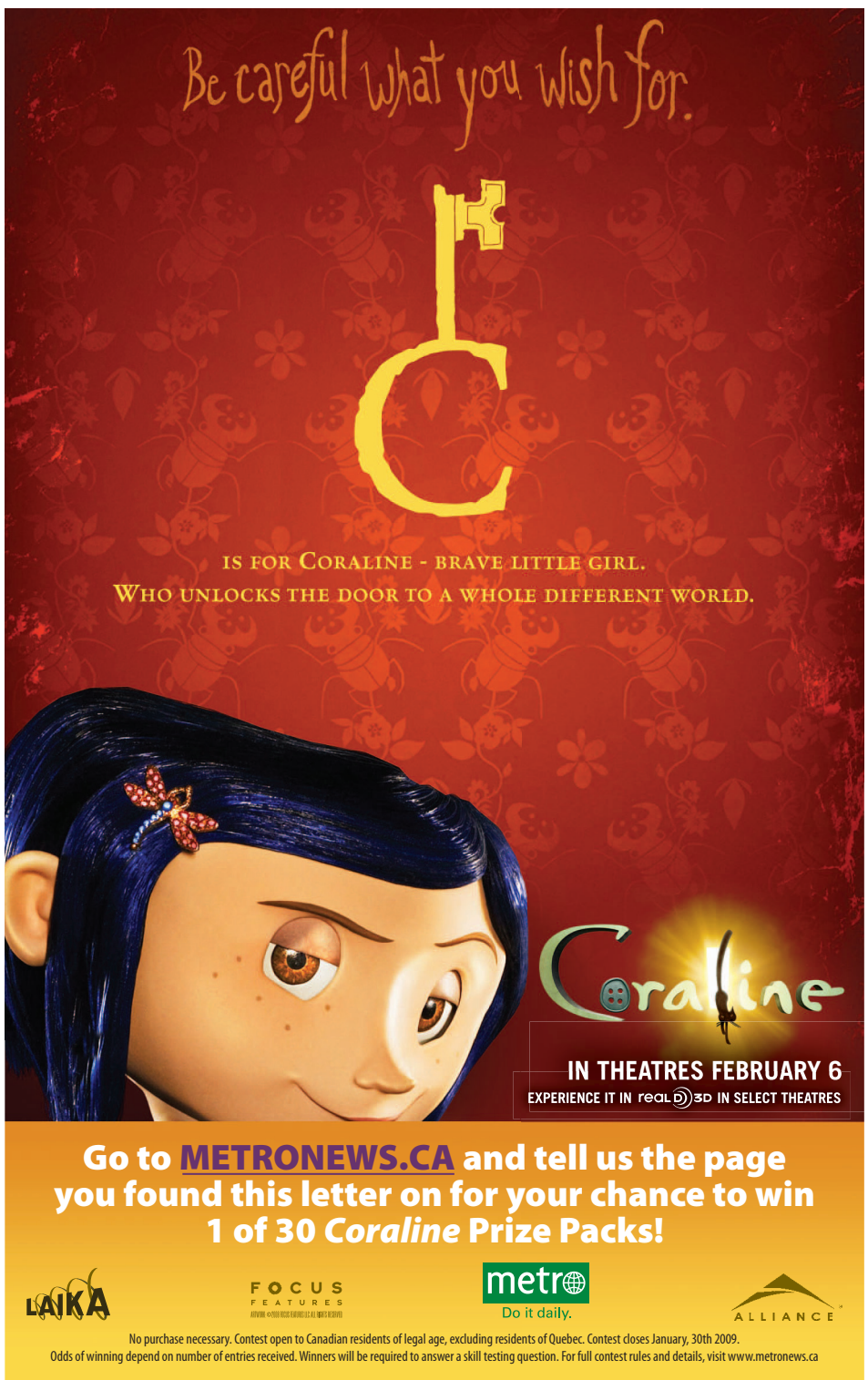
Saskatchewan native and Toronto-based singer-songwriter Suzie Vinnick picked up the female vocalist of the year once again, Toronto's Paul Reddick took the songwriter of the year award and John Mays, who heads the group Fathead, earned the male vocalist of the year title.

Harry Manx of Salt-spring Island, B.C., won for acoustic artist of the year, Daddy Long Legs of Waterloo, Ont., took new artist of the year honours, Harlem-born veteran Taj Mahal won international artist of the year and Ottawa's Steve Marriner won harmonica player of the year.

Last year's top winners, Downchild, received an award for horn player Pat Carey. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

STEPHEN CHERNIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The late Jeff Healey and his band won seven awards at the annual Maple Blues Awards.



Jackass and Cher duo?
Johnny Knoxville is set to star opposite Cher in a new comedy. The Jackass star has been cast alongside the singer and Oscar-winning actress in The Drop Out. This will be Cher's first major acting role since 1999's Tea with Mussolini. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Lost conclusion to be 'satisfying'

Although viewers have often been left scratching their heads over the bizarre plot twists on TV's Lost, the writers have always known how the story would ultimately wrap up, says the show's Canadian co-producer.

"One of the most common questions that we get asked is: 'Are you guys just like, you know, fumbling around the dark or do you actually have a plan?' and the truth is we've always had a plan, always known how the story was going to end up," said Stephen Williams, who divides his time between Toronto and Los Angeles.

"I think the audience needs to be totally and continually reassured that this is not a shaggy dog tale. It's going to wind up somewhere tremendously satisfying and that's always been part of the plan."

Lost kicks off its fifth season tonight on ABC and the A Channel (check local listings) and is set to finish for good in 2010.

And while Williams — who is also one of the show's directors — said he's "a huge supporter of the notion of having a finite end to the story" of plane crash survivors on a mysterious island, he'll be sad when the credits roll for the last time.

"I think the worst thing that could happen to Lost is that it would just kind of linger into some sort of pale representation of itself until the ratings dwindled and people's interests dwindled and then finally the show would be killed," he said in a telephone interview from Oahu, Hawaii, where the show is filmed. Lost has been a huge career investment for Williams, who has directed a slew of other TV series and won a Gemini Award for the Canadian TV movie Milgaard. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Lost is set to finish in 2010.

In brief

INVESTIGATION A coroner in Los Angeles has found that American Idol hopeful Paula Goodspeed found dead outside Paula Abdul's home committed suicide with prescription drugs. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

COURTS An attorney says the case filed by a magazine freelancer over a videotape that purportedly shows Heath Ledger doing drugs has ended. Attorney Neville Johnson did not disclose terms of the arrangement. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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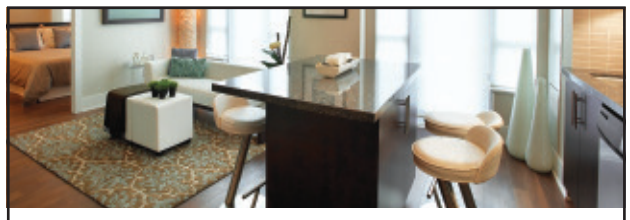

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Newlyweds
As the 15th and final season of ER comes to a close, a new beginning has come for Parminder Nagra. The British-born TV doc and celeb photographer James Stenson were married on Saturday afternoon, says Ok! Magazine. **EONLINE.COM**

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United in TV watching

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MAX WHITTAKER/GETTY IMAGES
Will you remember where you were when Barack Obama was sworn in as the next president of the United States?

THE ELECTRONIC HEARTH DIMS? The coverage of Barack Obama's inauguration yesterday was as uninteresting as it was overwrought, but the best thing I read about the event was written by Eric Deggans of the St. Petersburg Times on his blog.

With the Super Bowl in two weeks, it's worth noting that there aren't a lot of events that can guarantee the networks massive numbers any more. Football's biggest game is one, a big deal reality competition show like Idol is another, and a presidential inauguration is still in the running, especially when it's freighted with so much "history," as we've been so persistently reminded.

A major disaster or news event also counts, but I can remember a day when the list was longer, and included the network TV debut of a blockbuster film, or the final episode of a much-loved TV show, all of which seemed to empty the streets, malls, bars and movie theatres. Hell, I remember when the world seemed to stand still for the funeral of Lyndon Johnson, in the midst of Watergate's political and social turmoil.

Deggans wonders just how much longer we'll find ourselves gathered, alone or in a group, in front of the TV, as part of some communal ritual of witnessing: "In today's super-fragmented media environment," he writes, "little beyond American Idol and the Super Bowl can draw us together around TV's electronic hearth. Once upon a time, everyone could remember where they were when news broke that President Kennedy was shot or Saigon had fallen. These days, when even the selection of a vice president is announced by text message, that memory is gone, swallowed by technology's new ability to bring us instant reporting from just about anywhere to wherever."

For previous generations, Deggans cites the moon landing as a magnet that drew them to the TV, to which I'd add John F. Kennedy's assassination and funeral, while before that TV and radio competed as the focus of the public witness. He recalls where he was when the Challenger space shuttle exploded (I was a fresh college drop-out, watching the news on the TV sets in the electronics department at the Simpsons store where I was working), and the 9/11 attacks (in bed talking wedding plans with the woman who's now my wife).

Technology moves fast — eight years ago, I would have doubted that my VCR would be gathering dust, replaced by a pumped-up cable box that recorded shows at the touch of a button, or that my CD collection would have been distilled into a hard drive on the top of my computer with a whopping terabyte of memory.

As the viewing experience atomizes and the generations accustomed to ritual witnessing move on, that communal sense of a moment will dissolve, as news — and "history" — becomes more commonplace, like text crawl running at the bottom of our screens.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/21/09	265	353	2	TVO	Galapagos (Part 3 of 3)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Forgetful Not Forgotten		Human Edge "Operation Filmmaker"		
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "Whac-A-Mole"		(9:03) Lie to Me (N)		(10:06) NUMB3RS		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	2Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Week the Women Went		CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		13: Fear Is Real (N)		Hates Chris	Friends	I Love Money		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	American Idol Auditions.		(9:03) Criminal Minds		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Party Monsters: Cabo (N)		Renée Zellweger: True Story		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		L'Inquisition révélée		*Deux crimes* (1994, Drame) Damian Alcazar, José Carlos Ruiz.				Évolution
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Trading Places* ★★ (1983, Comedy) Dan Aykroyd, Eddie Murphy.					The DVD Show	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order "Pledge"		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Lost "Destiny Calls" (N)		Lost "Because You Left; The Lie" (N)				News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Lost "Destiny Calls" (N)		Lost "Because You Left; The Lie" (N)				News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	American Idol Auditions.		(9:03) Lie to Me (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Vicar of Dibley	Windsors-Royal		Make 'em Laugh: The Funny Business of America (N)				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	13: Fear Is Real (N)		90210 "By Accident"		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	13: Fear-Real
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		The Ugly Truth About Beauty		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	CNBC Reports (HDTV)				American Greed		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Hockeycentral	UFC Primetime	UFC 83: Serra vs. St. Pierre 2				Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Boston Bruins at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		Tennis
	411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
	417	406	81	SC	Trackside	NASCAR Pre.	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Trackside
family	551	542	25	YTV	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Bromwell High
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	How Clean	Too Posh	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out	Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	America's Best Dance Crew			Get With Girlicious		Video on Trial	disBand	disBand	Dance Crew
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Recoil"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Un Ciclone In Famiglia 2				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	Back In	Back In	All-Time Top 10		Fabulous Life
	575	583	38	CMT	CMT's Greatest "1997"		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Totally
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		About a Girl	About a Girl	The Guard (HDTV)		Big Love "Reunion"		House
	620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	X-Weighted "Tammy"		Real Housewives of OC		Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Smoked"		Cities of the Underworld		Moby Dick: The True Story		NCIS "Smoked"		Unlocking-Past
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*The Pelican Brief* ★★★ (1993, Suspense) Julia Roberts, Sam Shepard.					Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	Access	*How Stella Got Her Groove Back* ★★ (1998), Taye Diggs				Keyshia Cole	Brother	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost (Part 3 of 3)		The Dresden Files "Storm Front"				Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		The Real World		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Top Chef Restaurants. (N)		
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Darling Buds of May		Daily Weekend Edition (N)		Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Sketch Show	Destinées "Dans le bain" (SC)		Dommages et intérêts		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium "Pilot"		Medium		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	*Black Snake Moan* ★★ (2007, Drama), Christina Ricci				*Vantage Point* ★★ (2008, Suspense)			(10:45) *Six Figures*	
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) *Once Upon a Time in Mexico* (2003, Action)				*Midnight Express* ★★★ (1978, Docudrama) Brad Davis.				*El Mariachi*

critics' corner

Once Upon a Time in Mexico
A corrupt CIA agent (Johnny Depp) recruits a tormented gunman (Antonio Banderas) to stop conspirators from assassinating the president of Mexico in Robert Rodriguez's muddled but visually kinetic 2003 follow-up to his dazzling "Desperado." Best to overlook the convoluted plot and just groove to the arresting imagery, as well as the considerable star power of Banderas, Depp and Salma Hayek. 7:15 PM on PIX

The Week the Women Went
And they're off! No, this isn't a horse race; it's another season of the reality series in which all the women in a Canadian village are shipped off for a luxury vacation, leaving the men to fill the void. This season, the location is Tatamagouche, N.S., a one-time shipbuilding hub whose fishing industry is struggling. Taking on the women's work is a real wake-up call for the men, many of whom have been working long hours and traveling long distances. 8 PM on CBC

Hot Docs to honour film pioneers

DOCUMENTARIES Canadian film pioneer Alanis Obomsawin and documentarian Ron Mann are being honoured at the upcoming Hot Docs festival.

Programming director Sean Farnel says the two artists share "a pioneering spirit and punkish iconoclasm."

Obosawin — whose celebrated work includes 1993's Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance — is getting the festival's outstanding achievement award. Mann — whose 1999 film Grass examined marijuana while his upcoming Know Your Mushrooms focuses on fungi — will be honoured in the Focus On retrospective.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GlobalStyle
Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

Spears to pen autobiography
Singer Britney Spears is set to become an author — and a very well paid one, at that. Spears has reportedly signed a $20 million deal to write her autobiography once her Circus tour is done later this year, according to the N.Y. Daily Mail. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

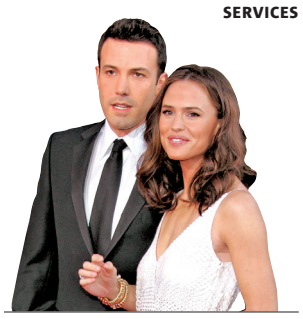
Affleck won't talk about baby name

BABY What's the hidden meaning behind Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner's newborn daughter's name? The actors won't say, reports usmagazine.com

"That's something that is going to stay in our family," Affleck told Entertainment Tonight when asked about the unusual moniker, Seraphina.

He then said Seraphina and her older sister Violet, 3, are doing "wonderful."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Photographer saves Jen's dog

PETS Constant paparazzi surveillance actually paid off for once for Jennifer Aniston.

Apparently her beloved dog, Norman, attempted to run away recently, but was nabbed by a photographer staked outside her Malibu, Calif., home before it could dart into a busy intersection, according to Hollyscoop.

No word on what, if anything, Aniston did as thanks when Norman was returned safe and sound.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cannon likes 'Mr. Carey' name

MARRIAGE Nick Cannon likes being known as "Mr. Carey," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor-and-rapper — who married Mariah Carey following a whirlwind romance last year — doesn't mind when people say his wife is more famous than him, claiming he just takes the teasing in his stride.

Asked how he feels when people say cruel things about his wife, Nick replied: "My heart goes out to my wife every time she has to hear something like that. I don't care about nothing, I'm just silly. I make fun of me all the time, I'm like, 'Call me Mr. Carey, who cares?'"

Nick added he feels "blessed" to be with Mariah. He told the TV show Extra: "I'm blessed to have a partner that's truly one of those people that affect the world."

Mariah was equally as gushing about her husband, revealing the secret to the couple's happy relationship is that they are not afraid to tell each other exactly how they feel.

She said: "The secret to me is realizing when you meet the right person and being brave enough to dive in and say this is the right person for me. We have fun like nobody's business."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

Cyrus lectured by pastor

RELATIONSHIP Miley Cyrus was lectured by her church pastor for sending text messages to her boyfriend, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 16-year-old Hannah Montana star and model Justin Gaston, 20, reportedly infuriated the minister by communicating through their mobile phones during a service at their place of worship in Montrose, California.

The pastor was said to be so upset he took them both aside to speak about their behaviour. A source told America's Star magazine: "They thought they could fool people, but Miley couldn't stop giggling."

Despite the age difference between Miley and Justin, the singer-and-actress says her family approve of their relationship because the underwear model is "a good Christian guy."

Miley said: "Our families are like, 'Whatever happens, happens.' If he's nothing but a really good friend, that's awesome.

"More than anything, he has really helped me move on from a lot of things. He's a really great Christian guy. He's gone through stuff, and I've gone through stuff, and everyone goes through that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cross' husband has cancer

HEALTH Marcia Cross' husband, stockbroker Tom Mahoney, has been diagnosed with cancer, people.com is reporting.

"He is currently under treatment and is responding very well," the actress' rep Heidi Slan tells People magazine. The two were married in June 2006, and have 23-month-old fraternal twin daughters, Eden and Savannah.

Cross has credited her husband's love and support for her own happiness.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Will Foxx continue Obama imitations?

CAREER Jamie Foxx might have already lined up his next big movie role, usmagazine.com reports.

The actor, who imitated Barack Obama at the We Are One kick-off concert at the Lincoln Memorial on Sunday, seemed ready to portray the then president-elect.

"Oh, I don't know," Foxx told usmagazine.com at the Declare Yourself event at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. on Sunday. "He's going to do his own movie for the next four to eight years.

"It's going to be incredible," Foxx added.

Foxx, who recently began discussing politics on his Sirius radio show called The Foxxhole, tells Us magazine that his listeners have responded to Obama's message.

"He straightens us up, but he straightens us up cool, even when he walked out today," Foxx tells Us magazine.

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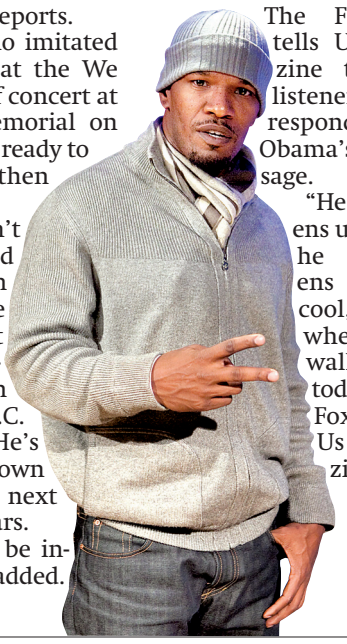

Usher talks volunteerism

INSPIRATION When Barack Obama urged Americans to embrace a new spirit of community service, Usher took that message to heart, people.com reports.

The pop star pumped up grade-schoolers and other volunteers with handshakes, jokes and words of praise as they repainted walls and built two libraries at Simon Elementary School in southeast D.C. — an area with a high dropout rate — on the afternoon of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Winehouse's dad defends her

HEALTH Amy Winehouse's father says the singer came "close to death" twice during her worst moments, people.com reports.

Detailing his daughter's lowest points for the upcoming TV documentary Saving Amy, Mitch Winehouse says that while the media have been reveling in her downfall, "They didn't see her lying in bed for days in a dark room," he is quoted in Hello! magazine.

Amy's mother, Janis, also appears in Saving Amy.

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Friday Flurries -2° / -19° 40%
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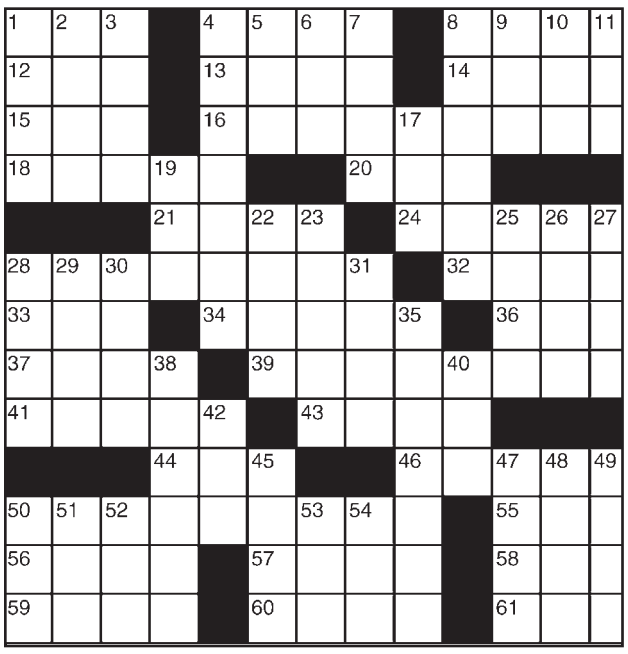

Crossword across

1 Unruly group
4 Carrots' mates
8 Arp's style
12 Gorilla
13 Sicilian volcano
14 State with certainty
15 Eviscerate
16 Do-over coupon
18 Stern or Singer
20 Guy's companion
21 Tony of golf lore
24 Coven member
28 Lake or dam in Montana
32 Emanation
33 Altar affirmative
34 Ex-Senator Lott
36 Fiddler's need
37 Roster
39 Sweater type
41 Slug with a shell
43 '60s protest of a sort
44 Burst
46 Indigent
50 "The Tempest" occurrence
55 Tiny
56 "In — -horse open sleigh"
57 Exam format
58 Right angle
59 Fix
60 Recede
61 Tear

Crossword down

1 Creche trio
2 Piece of work
3 Bygone VHS alternative
4 Impression obtained by the senses
5 Greek H
6 Folk rocker DiFranco
7 Crooned
8 Showy bloom
9 "Hail, Caesar!"
10 Calendar abbr.
11 Clumsy craft
17 Corvine call
19 Model Carol
22 Ford make, for short
23 Sharp-tongued
25 Toothpaste container
26 Gator's kin
27 Warmonger
28 Son, on the Seine
29 Valhalla VIP
30 Parks or Bonheur
31 Dandling locale
35 Scintillate
38 Left a gratuity
40 Away from SSW
42 Depressed
45 Front of a ship
47 Basin accessory
48 Sandwich shop
49 Kennel cry
50 Muppet eagle
51 Weeding tool
52 Hostel
53 Historic time
54 Holder for 4-Across

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	7							3
		3	4					
4		1		3	9			2
					1		7	9
		4		2		8		
3	6		5					
2			3	9		6		1
					8	5		
1							2	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

G	L	A	D	■	B	A	S	S	■	D	O	M		
A	O	N	E	■	A	L	L	Y	■	O	R	E		
S	T	I	N	G	R	A	Y	S	■	W	I	T		
■	■	■	I	O	N	S	■	T	A	N	G	O		
C	A	C	A	O	■	■	H	E	L	P	■	■		
R	I	A	L	■	T	R	A	M	P	L	E	D		
I	D	S	■	T	E	E	N	S	■	A	R	E		
B	E	T	H	E	S	D	A	■	M	Y	N	A		
■	■	A	U	N	T	■	■	L	A	S	E	R		
C	A	W	E	D	■	E	K	E	D	■	■	■		
A	N	A	■	R	A	D	I	O	D	A	Y	S		
F	O	Y	■	I	B	I	S	■	E	P	E	E		
E	N	S	■	L	E	T	S	■	R	E	S	T		

1	8	3	6	9	5	4	2	7
6	5	4	2	8	7	3	9	1
2	7	9	4	1	3	6	8	5
5	2	7	1	4	6	8	3	9
3	9	1	5	2	8	7	4	6
8	4	6	7	3	9	1	5	2
9	6	5	8	7	4	2	1	3
7	1	8	3	5	2	9	6	4
4	3	2	9	6	1	5	7	8

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Fruity One-Pot Lamb

INGREDIENTS:
1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil
1 2/3 lbs (800 g) best neck lamb chops, cut into pieces
2 onions, sliced
2/3 lb (300 g) carrots, peeled and cut into batons
1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) red or white wine vinegar
3 cups (700 ml) chicken stock, hot
1/2 tsp (2 ml) ground turmeric
1/2 tsp (2 ml) ground cumin
3 sprigs of fresh thyme
2 bay leaves
salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 cup (250 ml) long-grain white rice
3/4 cup (175 ml) dried apricots, halved
1/2 cup (125 ml) sultanas

TO GARNISH
Bay leaves

METHOD:
1. Heat oil in large flameproof casserole dish, add half the meat and briefly brown on both sides. Drain and remove to plate, then repeat with rest of meat. Add onions and carrots to dish, cook for 5 minutes, then add wine vinegar and cook over high heat 2 minutes, scraping up meaty bits.
2. Pour in hot stock, then add turmeric, cumin, thyme, bay leaves and salt and pepper to season and bring to the boil. Reduce heat, return meat to casserole, cover and simmer 1 hour.
3. Add rice, apricots and sultanas to casserole and cook 20 minutes, stirring after 10 minutes, until rice meat are both tender. (stock will be absorbed.) Remove bay leaves and thyme, check for seasoning and serve hot.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Severe delays will make you very impatient. A middle aged mom will be completely discreet. Being scolded has an outrageous effect on a friend.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Someone is on the road to recovery. A revelation forces a liar to be honest. A coward will experience a minor injury.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Ignore the comical ravings of a bad boy. Don't argue if someone returns early. Your charisma is needed in the evening.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Try to do something that you've never done before. A brute will get in the way of a deal. A bad situation will have a surprise ending.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A guilty guy has an ulterior motive. An ethical person has an extreme mood change. An anecdote about love will raise questions.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Insist that someone take time away from their computer. A weeping victim meets with the authorities. A smarmy relative is telling the truth.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Force yourself to ask for advice. Don't feel forsaken when someone is malicious. Your enthusiasm causes you to ace a tough task.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
It's your turn to be supportive to helpful people. Say nothing about someone's filthy lifestyle. A visitor causes awkward laughter.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A surprising rebellion causes hopefulness. Ignore complaints made by a sceptical person. Your suspicions will prove to be well-founded.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
The anticipation of passion deceives a friend. A little guy will thrill you with a discovery. You'll be asked to rescue a friend.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You'll want to make up with someone. A man is saving you from the truth. You'll have to talk about a hostile takeover.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A good-humoured declaration causes damages. Hearty greetings announce a sweetheart's arrival. A respectful person inspires you.

This day in history

JAN. 21, 1189: Philip II of France and Richard I of England begin to assemble troops to wage the Third Crusade.
JAN. 21, 1793: After being found guilty of treason by the French Convention, Louis XVI of France was executed by the guillotine.
JAN. 21, 1924: Vladimir Lenin dies; a lengthy power struggle emerges between Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin begins, culminating to the latter's consolidation of power in 1928.
JAN. 21, 1948: The Flag of Quebec is adopted and flown for the first time, over the National Assembly of Quebec. The day is marked annually as Quebec Flag Day.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Writing tablet craze (1)
2. Lets farmers' goods fall to the floor (1)
3. "Pop" test brainiac (1)
4. Via the animal park (1)
5. Not as new unpaved side of the road (2)
6. Choosing mattress and pillow cover fabric (2)
7. Puts shellac on adornments like parsley (3)

ANSWERS
1. PAD PAD 2. DROPS CROPS 3. QUIZ WHIZ 4. THROUGH ZOO
5. OLDER SHOULDER 6. PICKING TICKING 7. VARNISHES GARNISHES

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5-STAR CRASH TEST RATING
NHTSA - Frontal impacts††

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LX model shown

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CITY: 8.6 L/100KM 33 MPG

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AMORT. OVER 84 MOS.
$3,984 REMAINING BALANCE

2009 Sportage

★★★★★
5-STAR CRASH TEST RATING
NHTSA - Frontal and side impacts††

LX model shown

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CITY: 10.3 L/100KM 27 MPG

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